



Assistive Technology Guidelines

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These guidelines provide information for schools to determine if classroom assistive technology (AT) already in use by students with disabilities may be used on the DC Comprehensive Assessments of Progress in Education (DC CAPE), and how to test the functionality of certain assistive technology prior to testing.

TestNav is the online assessment platform used to deliver the DC CAPE assessments to students. TestNav is designed to comply with the [World Wide Web Consortium \(W3C\) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.0, Level AA](#). In order to be compatible with the online assessment platform, browsers and assistive technologies should comply with the W3C's [User Agent Accessibility Guidelines \(UAAG\)](#) and support WCAG 2.0, Level AA and the [Web Accessibility Initiative \(WAI\) - Accessible Rich Internet Applications \(ARIA\)](#) recommendation from the W3C. All assistive technology that is required to interact with the online assessment platform, but does not conform to W3C standards and guidelines, may present challenges for students during testing.

NOTE: Assistive technology may not have embedded grammar check, connect to the internet, or save information. If these features cannot be disabled or monitored closely by a test administrator, the device should not be used on an assessment.

Category One: Compatible Assistive Technology

The **first** category includes assistive technology that is used by the student to interact directly with the computer-based testing platform. These assistive technologies include standard input devices, such as adaptive keyboards, adaptive mice, and switch interfaces. Third-party applications, such as screen readers, are not supported on the DC CAPE Assessments.

Schools must confirm the functionality of the devices and software prior to testing by conducting a simulation of the day-of-testing environment. This can be completed in two phases.

Phase I

Practice Tests are available on the [DC CAPE Pearson Support Portal](#), or the TestNav desktop application. These practice tests are non-secure and provide students with exposure to test content and interactions.

There are multiple versions of practice tests available. To test the functionality of assistive technology, select the appropriate practice test within each grade/subject tab.

Note: Phase I does not require a secure student login. It is intended only to provide students with access to gain exposure to content and item interactions within the assessment. Phase II must be completed to confirm functionality in a secure assessment environment.

Phase II

Phase II needs to be completed in the Assessment Delivery and Management (ADAM) platform used by the Local Education Agency (LEA) to administer assessments. ADAM has the capability to verify assistive technologies during practice tests within a secure testing environment.

NOTE: Phase II requires completion of test registration and accommodation assignment in ADAM.

Variability has been found in the compatibility of different assistive technologies with the TestNav app. Because of this, it is required that each user undergo infrastructure trials where the students' AT can be tested in a secure TestNav environment. The intent is to confirm if the assistive technology will interact appropriately with the TestNav assessment platform and whether it can be used successfully during computer-based testing.

NOTE: Browser-based TestNav is not supported. The TestNav desktop app must be used for all secure assessments.

As a result, assistive technologies that rely on browser toolbars or student login will not work in the TestNav desktop app. For example, Read&Write must be used as category two external assistive technology (see below section), or by enabling extensions in the ADAM accommodation profile.

Category Two: External Assistive Technology

The **second** category includes “stand-alone” assistive technology that does *not* interact directly with TestNav and is not accessed on the same device used by the student to complete the computer-based assessment. Instead, assistive technology must be used by the student at a separate station during the assessment.

Assistive technologies in this category include speech-to-text, augmentative communication, word prediction, self-contained word processors, and other technologies not directly connected to the computer on which the student is being tested. These “stand-alone” assistive technologies do not need to be tested via an Infrastructure Trial and may be used during the assessment, according to the provisions of the accommodations policies. However, they may

require an adult test administrator to assist the student with transition between the computer used for assessment and the external assistive technology.

All responses generated on a “stand-alone” assistive technology device must be transcribed verbatim by a test administrator to the student’s computer-based test or into the accommodated answer document. Please refer to appendix C of the Accessibility Features and Accommodations (AF&A) manual posted to the [DC CAPE Pearson Support Portal](#) for protocols for the use of the scribe accommodation and for transcribing student responses.

NOTE: If stand-alone assistive technologies are used for the assessments, all grammar check, internet access, and stored file functionalities must be disabled.

Operating System **Requirements** and Assistive Technology Use

TestNav technology guidelines provide detailed information on minimum system specifications. The guidelines are available at [TestNav System Requirements](#).

Additional important notes for various operating systems are outlined below:

- **Chromebooks:**

- The only Assistive Technology that can be used on Chromebooks interacting directly with TestNav is ChromeVox—the screen reader embedded within the Chromebook Operating System.
- Chromebooks cannot be used with any other Assistive Technology interacting directly with TestNav. Chromebook extensions are blocked when in Kiosk mode (Required for secure assessment).
- Chromebooks can be used as a stand-alone Assistive Technology for response accommodations as defined in the AF&A Manual.
- Embedded operating system accessibility features must be disabled unless otherwise allowed per the students Individualized Education Program (IEP). If not disabled, they will be active during assessment as they can’t be blocked by TestNav. Examples for Chrome OS include ChromeVox and Sticky Keys.

- **macOS and iOS—iPads**

- This applies to full size iPads only (no iPad Minis).
- Refer to the [TestNav System Requirements](#) to determine supported iOS.
- VoiceOver for iOS is not allowed for use on the assessments. There is currently no configuration that will provide a barrier-free testing experience for VoiceOver users on iOS systems.
- Embedded operating system accessibility features must be disabled unless otherwise allowed per the students IEP. If not disabled, they will be active during assessment as they can’t be blocked by TestNav.

Examples for macOS and iOS include Voiceover, Sticky Keys, Speak Selection, and Speak Screen.

- **Windows**

- Embedded operating system accessibility features must be disabled unless otherwise allowed per the students IEP. If not disabled, they will be active during assessment as they can't be blocked by TestNav. Examples for Windows OS include Windows Narrator, Windows Speech Recognition, and Sticky Keys.