

Presentation Supports/Materials for TAKS–Alt

Assessment tasks for TAKS–Alt are written very broadly in order to allow access for a wide range of student abilities. Because of this broad access, it is critical that TAKS–Alt assessment tasks be individualized for each student through the use of presentation supports and materials. Students being assessed with TAKS–Alt may use whatever accommodations and supports are routinely and successfully used for the student to access the grade level content and be as independent as possible. Supports used should not alter the complexity level of the assessment task that has been chosen. Students do not receive lower scores because of the use of these supports. Supports need to be preplanned and should never be confused with cueing and prompting terms. The following chart offers suggestions on possible supports and materials which can be used with students with significant cognitive disabilities. Each mode of access is listed separately; however, students may require a multisensory approach that will combine sensory modes.

Verbal Access	
Supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentation of information by a person or technology • Sign Language • Breaking verbal directions into parts or chunks • Word approximations or simplified language • Activation of augmentative communication devices • Paraphrasing and /or summarizing text or information 	Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive software • Text readers • Audio tapes • Adaptive listening devices • Talking calculators and reference materials • Communication symbols • Communication devices
Physical Access	
Supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing or typing responses or written approximations • Touching, pointing, gesturing responses • Manipulation of objects and /or pictures • Positioning devices • Tactile symbols and books • Touch cues • Sensory input • Affect or state change • Highlight or draw information • Adaptive writing equipment • Computer accessible equipment • Activation of switches to record answers 	Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standers, special chairs, support cushions, slat or vertical boards, adaptive tables • Braille materials • Word prediction software • Modified keyboards, touch screens, joysticks, modified mouse, head mouse • Stamps, stickers, stencils to communicate • Pencil grips, tactile paper with raised lines • Switches • Textured surfaces • Tactile materials to explore
Visual Access	
Supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pictures or objects to convey meaning • Video clips • Enlarged materials • Light box • Laser lights and pens • Visual displays of information • Placement to facilitate eye gaze or intense focus • Visual scanning techniques • Visual markers • Shortened text 	Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pictures to text software • Picture symbols and icons • Objects and manipulatives • Graphic organizers, charts, maps, outlines, timelines, concept maps • Highlighted text • Magnetic or manipulative letters • Heat sensitive paper • Picture dictionaries or hand-held spellers • Visual timers • Color coding and colored overlays • Specialized calculators