Kansas

NAEP 2026 Inclusion Policy for English learners (EL)

Grades 4, 8 and 12 Mathematics and Reading

The Kansas Department of Education expects that most English learners will be included on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Only English learners who have been **enrolled in U.S. schools for less than one (1) full academic year before the NAEP assessment and cannot access NAEP** may be excluded from any NAEP assessment. All other English learners should participate in NAEP with or without NAEP-allowed accommodations. If you have questions about the NAEP accommodations, please contact Mark Stephenson, NAEP State Coordinator at Mark.Stephenson@ksde.gov.

Several accommodations provided on the state assessments are not necessary for the NAEP assessments because they are available for all students through universal design elements. The chart below is divided into three sections: (1) universal design elements that are available to all students, (2) accommodations provided by the test delivery system, and (3) accommodations provided outside the test delivery system. NAEP accommodations are only allowed for English learners.

Please keep in mind that NAEP does not produce results for individual students or schools, unlike the state assessments. In other words, the NAEP assessments do not impose consequences for the student or the school and are instead intended purely to provide a picture of educational performance and progress.

Please note all assessments are not the same and are developed to measure specific constructs. Therefore, NAEP may not allow or support all accessibility features and accommodations of the state assessments. The following are the expectations for inclusion on NAEP:

- For reading: Read Aloud Occasional or Most or All is not allowed on the NAEP assessment. The NAEP reading assessment measures reading comprehension by asking students to read passages written in English and to answer questions about what they have read. Because this is an assessment of reading comprehension and not listening comprehension, NAEP does not allow passages or items to be read aloud to students as testing accommodations.
- For reading: bilingual dictionaries (in any language) are not allowed on the NAEP assessment.
- Students who receive multiple-day testing on the state assessments should take the NAEP assessments in 1 day with breaks as needed. NAEP is much shorter than most state assessments, so multiple-day testing is not supported.
- Graphic organizers are not allowed on the NAEP assessment.
- If students need to be tested in a quiet place away from distractions, select Preferential Seating for students who need to sit at the front of the room or face the administrator and/or Separate Location/Small Group for students who must test individually or in a small group.

Table 1: NAEP Universal Design Elements available to all students
Grades 4, 8 and 12 Mathematics and Reading -- Digitally Based Assessment on Device

Universal Design Element	Description
Zooming	Enlarges some content onscreen up to two times (2X) the default text/image size on the screen while preserving clarity, contrast, and color. • Does not include the tutorial, toolbar, item tabs, scrollbars, calculator, and equation editor.
Individual Testing Experience	Read Aloud and other UDE and accommodations are provided through the device and will not distract other students in the room. • Students have earbuds to reduce distractions. • Students interact directly with device. • Tested with other selected students. • Refer to the accommodation *Preferential Seating* to minimize distractions for testing with other students.
Directions Read Aloud/Text-to-Speech (English)	All directions in the assessment are text-to-speech enabled, including general directions, directions within the assessment, Tutorial, Help, and Student Questionnaire screens.
Directions Explained/Clarified	Students can raise their hand at any time and ask the test administrator to clarify or explain directions.
Read Aloud/Text-to-Speech (English) – Occasional or Most or All	**Not Available for Reading.** Students select some or all text to be read aloud by the system using text-to-speech.
Use a Computer/Tablet to Respond	All students respond on devices.
Color Theming	Option 1: black text on white background (default) Option 2: white text on black background Option 3: black text on beige background • This tool is not available for the tutorial and some items.
Text Notepad	Allows text to be entered from the physical keyboard to record notes into a resizable window for each question.
Text Highlighter	Allows the highlighting of text on the screen for most content.
Scratchwork Capability	Allows freehand drawing and highlighting on the screen for most content.
Elimination Capability	Students can gray out answer choices for multiple-choice items. • This tool is not available for constructed-response items.
Volume Adjustment	Students can raise or lower voice-over volume using the device's volume buttons.

Universal Design Element	Description
Closed Captioning	All voice-over narration is closed-captioned.
Scratch Paper	Administrators inform students that scratch paper (and pencil) is available upon request.

Table 2: NAEP accommodations provided by test delivery system.
Grades 4, 8, and 12 Mathematics and Reading -- Digitally Based Assessment on Device

Accommodation	Description
Extended Time	Students are given up to three times (3X) the allotted time to complete the assessment. • If state test is untimed, students **may or may not** require extended time on NAEP. • Most students are able to complete the NAEP cognitive sections in the time allowed.

Table 3: NAEP accommodations provided outside the test delivery system.
Grades 4, 8, and 12 Mathematics and Reading– Digitally Based Assessment on Device

Accommodation	Description
Breaks During Test	Students are allowed to take breaks as requested or at predetermined intervals during the assessment. Students can take the assessment in more than one sitting during a single day.
Separate Location/Small Group	Student is tested in a separate location to meet testing needs as appropriate. • Refer to the UDE *Individual Testing Experience* and accommodation *Preferential Seating* to determine if separate location/small group is needed. • May be in the same room but in a specific location or a different room. • Can be individual or with a small group of students.
Familiar Person Present in Testing Room	The **aide who regularly works with the student** must be present in the testing room during time of assessment. • Only trained NAEP staff may conduct the assessment session.
Uses Template	**Provided by the school.** • Cutout, masking, color overlays, line reader, or place marker.
Special Equipment	**Provided by the school.** • FM system, amplification equipment, auditory amplification device. • Noise buffers, study carrel, blinder, special lighting, adaptive furniture. • Stress ball or sensory fidget item.

Accommodation	Description
Preferential Seating	**Provided by the school.** • Seating to reduce distractions within the general testing session. • Front of the class, close to the test administrator, etc.
Cueing to Stay on Task	**Provided by a school staff member.** • Monitor for understanding, monitor placement of responses. • Redirect to stay on task, reminders to stay on task, prompts to stay on task. • Provide verbal encouragement, reinforcement, refocus. • Track test items.
Bilingual Dictionary (in any language)	**Not Available for Reading.** A handheld electronic or hardcopy bilingual dictionary **provided by the school** in any language that contains English translations of words but does not contain definitions. • Also known as a word-for-word dictionary, word-to-word translation dictionary, or a bilingual word list.
Other (specify)	Any accommodation not listed above. Please check with your NAEP State Coordinator to see if other accommodations are allowed on NAEP.