



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) GED® Test Accommodations

### Questions about the process of requesting accommodations on the GED® test

#### What types of disabilities or conditions might need to be accommodated?

The most commonly accommodated conditions include:

- Learning & Cognitive disabilities
- Visual impairments
- ADHD
- Psychiatric/Psychological disorders, (e.g., Major Depressive Disorder or Generalized Anxiety Disorder)
- Physical disabilities

In addition, some chronic medical conditions may require a change in the standard testing conditions, such as:

- Diabetes
- Crohn's Disease
- Chronic severe back pain due to an injury or illness

Finally, some individuals may qualify for an accommodation if they have a temporary medical condition that requires an adaptation, such as:

- A broken leg
- Pregnancy

Keep in mind that having been diagnosed with a disability does not automatically mean that you will qualify for an accommodation. Each request is carefully reviewed, and decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

#### ***Are there any personal items or devices that don't require formal approval in advance?***

The [Personal Items and Minor Modifications](#) link includes a list of items, also known as Comfort Aids, that do not need formal pre-approval.

***I have a medical condition that necessitates that I bring something into the testing room with me. Do I need to formally request accommodations?***

If you have a medical condition and you believe you need to bring an item into the testing room with you, check the [Personal Items and Minor Modifications](#) list under Additional Resources on our website.

However, if your condition requires you to bring something that is not on the Personal Items and Minor Modifications list, you will need to request an accommodation. Documentation should be provided by your treating professional, dated and on professional letterhead. It should include:

- a clear diagnosis
- discussion of your functional limitations
- recommendation for accommodations, and
- a rationale for your requested accommodation

***How do I submit a request for accommodations?***

Please visit [https://ged.com/about\\_test/accommodations/](https://ged.com/about_test/accommodations/) and scroll down to How to Apply for detailed instructions.

***When do I need to submit my request for accommodations?***

You are advised to submit your documentation well in advance, so that if we need additional clarification, there will be ample time for us to ask questions and for you to provide us with more documentation, if needed.

***How long will it take for my request to be reviewed?***

Most accommodation requests can be processed within 30 days. However, if your situation is unusually complex, or if your documentation is not complete, it may take longer.

***How will I know when a decision has been made?***

You will receive an email with a determination letter containing our decision. Please read the letter thoroughly as it contains important instructions for next steps.

***If I am approved for accommodations, how long do I have to take the GED® test with those accommodations?***

Generally, accommodations approvals are valid for two (2) years from the date of approval. At any time after that, if you decide to take the GED® test with the same accommodations for which you were previously approved, and your documentation materials are still current, you have the option of requesting an Extension of your accommodations approval. [Request an Extension here](#).

Keep in mind that the currency requirements and all other requirements of your documentation (detailed in the Notes section of the [Documentation Guidelines](#)) still need to be met.

### ***How can I appeal my accommodations decision?***

If your request for accommodations was denied, and you wish to appeal our decision, complete the [Appeal request here](#).

### ***Who is qualified to be an evaluator and provide me with documentation of my disability?***

Please see the Notes section in the [Documentation Guidelines](#) for information about qualified professionals.

### ***Are there certain accommodations that are always approved for some disabilities?***

Not all test-takers with disabilities are the same, even if they have the same diagnosis. We look at each case individually to determine what accommodations are appropriate, given your unique circumstances.

## **General questions about disabilities and accommodations**

### ***What is a disability?***

A disability is defined by federal law as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include activities of daily living such as breathing, working, learning, seeing, hearing, and reading.

### ***I have been diagnosed with a disorder that substantially limits me. Am I entitled to whatever accommodations my doctor recommends?***

Just because you have a diagnosis of a particular disorder, and your doctor recommends a variety of accommodations, does not necessarily mean that all of those accommodations are appropriate in every circumstance. Some accommodations are more appropriate in classrooms than on standardized tests like the GED® test, such as having someone explain the questions to you. Other accommodations like having extra time on tests might be appropriate for a quiz in a Math class, but it might not be realistic for you to take all modules of the GED® test with double time (that's over 15 hours of testing time!) It is important to carefully consider your test-taking challenges and make sure the accommodations are appropriate and in your best interest.

### ***Although my disorder is not disabling, I'm sure I would do better on the GED® test if I had accommodations. Why shouldn't I be allowed to show my true potential?***

Accommodations are intended to provide access to the GED® test, not to ensure success or to ensure that you perform at your best. Many GED® test-takers would probably do better with accommodations, but accommodations must not provide any test-takers with an unfair advantage. Instead, accommodations must provide equal access.

***I don't have a disability, but I usually run out of time when I take GED® practice tests. Why shouldn't I be allowed extra time?***

Many GED® test-takers do not finish the exam. Remember, the GED® test is a timed, standardized exam. The test assesses not only your ability to demonstrate your skills and knowledge, but also your ability to demonstrate your skills fluently, in a timely way.

***If I have a disability, does that mean I am entitled to my preferred accommodations?***

If you have a disability (as defined by law), you are entitled to reasonable accommodations that enable you to access the GED® test. While we will give strong consideration to your request and the recommendations of your evaluator, you may not receive your preferred accommodations.

***I had an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan in high school. Am I automatically guaranteed the same accommodations on the GED® test?***

Although your IEP or 504 Plan can provide helpful information about accommodations you were provided in high school, those same accommodations cannot be guaranteed for the GED® test. We carefully review your application to ensure you are entitled to reasonable accommodations that enable you to access the GED® test.

***Is my Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan sufficient documentation of my disability?***

Your IEP or 504 Plan by itself is usually not sufficient evidence of your disability. It is important that we receive documentation from a qualified evaluator/treating professional to establish your clinical diagnosis. Please see the [Documentation Guidelines](#) for more details.

***When I'm in a classroom, an aid or teacher often helps explain the questions for me. Can I have someone explain the GED® test items to me?***

There are many accommodations and modifications that may be appropriate in a classroom or instructional setting that are not appropriate on a standardized exam like the GED® test. The GED® test is a standardized test that measures what you know, and what skills you yourself can demonstrate.

***I still have questions. Who should I ask?***

Email your questions to the GED Testing Service®  
Accommodations team at [accommodations@ged.com](mailto:accommodations@ged.com)

Updated: January 2024