NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Accessibility and Accommodations for North Dakota Academic Progression of Learning & Understanding of Students

(ND A+)

The ND A+ Interim Assessments offer universal and designated features, including form-based accommodations, to ensure that all students can benefit from participation in the assessment.

Accessibility supports include:

- both **embedded (digitally-provided) and non-embedded (non-digitally or locally provided) universal** features that are available to all students as they access instructional or assessment content,
- **designated features** that are available for those students for whom the need has been identified by an informed educator or team of educators, and
- **accommodations** that are generally available for students for whom there is documentation on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504, or EL Plan. Approaches to these supports may vary, depending on state or assessment contexts as well as nature of assessments.

Universal Features

Universal features are accessibility supports that are available to all students without the requirement of an accommodated test. These features are embedded in our TestNav delivery engine along with non-embedded or non-digital local-level testing supports.

Embedded Universal Features

Note: Some accessibility features are available for all questions and others are only available on relevant questions.

Feature	Description
Human recorded audio (Reading & math, grades K-2)	Kindergarten and 1st grade students will have human audio available for directions and all test items in math and reading. Grade 2 students will have human audio available on some items, but not all. **Headphones are required for all Kindergarten through 2nd grade students.**
Dynamic Text to Speech (DTTS) (Math, grades 3-HS)	On grades 3-HS math assessments, all students will have access to DTTS. Note: For ***all*** grades, voice must be installed to enable Dynamic Text to Speech (DTTS) for Spanish math tests.
Highlighter	A student can use this to highlight items, text, or response options.
Answer eliminator	Students use this feature to cross out answer choices that do not appear to be correct.
Math tools	A student can access an embedded digital calculator for calculator-enabled items. Students will also have protractors and rulers when enabled on an item.
Amplification	Students control the volume level as needed when using headphones.
Keyboard navigation	Students can navigate through the test content by using the keyboard.
Line reader/line guide	The Line Reader Mask helps the student to focus on specific parts of the item. The student can select and drag both handles to whatever size they need to show and hide as much of the item as they want to focus on, like a word, phrase, or any portion. They can also select and drag the move icon to move the window around in the mask.
Answer Masking	Students can select it from the User drop-down menu. When selected, students see a mask covering multiple-choice distractors, with the option to click to expose each individually. They can turn answer masking on and off over each distractor or turn answer masking on or off on the entire question.
Math reference sheets	Math formulas are provided in a resource page.
Notepad	Students can use this feature as digital scratch paper to make notes.
Magnifier	Students can enlarge the size of the text within TestNav.

Non-embedded Universal Features

Feature	Description
Breaks	A student can take breaks as needed to reduce cognitive fatigue.
Extended time	There are no time limits on ND A+ Interim Assessments. On average, students take 30-40 minutes per subject to complete the test. However, students may take as long as they need to complete the ND A+ Interim Assessments.
Separate setting	A school may alter a test location so that the student is tested in a setting such as a quiet room, if this is provided during other testing events.
Scratch paper	The student uses scratch paper or an individual, erasable whiteboard to make notes or record responses. All scratch paper must be collected and securely destroyed after administration of each test domain to maintain test security.

Designated Features

Designated features are available for students who require additional support that aligns with their instructional experience, such as language support. If the feature needed is embedded in the TestNav delivery system, educators are required to indicate accommodation codes, by student, in the ADAM platform prior to testing.

Embedded Designated Features

Feature	Description
Dynamic Text to Speech (DTTS)(Reading, grades 2-HS)	In grades 2-HS reading assessments, DTSS can be turned on for students requiring this feature. There are two options for DTTS in reading. The student can receive DTTS on the items only or on both the passage and the items. A quick guide will be available to outline the process for selecting one of the two options. Administration Resources | ND A+ Portal (mypearsonsupport.com)
Spanish language translation	Spanish language math assessments are available for in grades K-HS for students requiring this feature.
Color Contrast	The student is able to adjust the text color and screen background color based on the student's need.

Non-embedded Designated Features

Feature	Description
Human reader	Proctors can read the test questions aloud.

Feature	Description
Scribe	Proctors may enter student responses into the TestNav app for a student who is unable to do so in circumstances, such as a broken arm or other physical disability. Scribes can also enter responses from downloadable paper or Braille forms.
Noise buffer	A student can use noise buffers to minimize distraction or filter external noises during testing.
Native language translation	A test administrator who is fluent in the student's native language can translate test items.

Form-Based Accommodations

ND A+ Interim Assessments supports the following form-based accommodations for grades 3-8 in Reading and Math:

- Braille—Available to order
- Paper Form—Downloadable from the ADAM platform.

Student responses can be entered directly into the ADAM platform.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Do the universal features need to be assigned to a student for the assessment?**
   No, universal features do not need to be assigned. All the embedded universal features will appear for all students in the testing environment. Likewise, non-embedded universal features can be used during the test without any specific assignment in the assessment platform.

2. **Does ND A+ Interim Assessments allow read aloud and text-to-speech options?**
   ND A+ Interim Assessments includes universal human recorded audio for kindergarten through second grade students taking math and reading. Beginning in grade 2, dynamic text to speech (DTTS) is available for students with an accommodation in reading. All students will have access to DTTS for grades 3-HS math. ND A+ Interim Assessments also allows a designated human reader for students as a designated feature.

3. **What is the difference between human recorded audio and human read aloud?**
   Human recorded audio is a feature on all K-2 ND A+ Interim Assessment. It is a recording of a human reading items (or parts of items) to students. The human read aloud option depends on individual student accommodations, and requires a human, in person, to read the items to the student.