

LAS Links Read Aloud Accommodation Guidelines

What is the LAS Links Read Aloud Accommodation?

This accommodation is **only** available for students who are dually identified as English learners/multilingual learners (ELs/MLs) with accommodations determined for the current grade of enrollment in a finalized Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan in CT-SEDS. This is a non-embedded accommodation provided to the student, in English, by a human reader in a one-to-one test setting. The LAS Links Read Aloud Accommodation has two distinct accommodation types and a supplementary accommodation for the LAS Links Text-to-Speech Accommodation.

- LAS Links Read Aloud Accommodation of the Reading Domain (Passages and Item Prompts), Writing Domain (Stimuli and Item Prompts), and specified items on the Speaking and Listening Domains.
- LAS Links Read Aloud of Directions and Item Prompts Only Accommodation for the Reading, Writing Domain and specified items on the Speaking and Listening Domains.

LAS Links Read Aloud Accommodation of the Reading Domain (Passages and Item Prompts), Writing Domain (Stimuli and Item Prompts) is specifically intended for students who, in spite of intensive and extensive instruction/intervention using a Structured Literacy methodology or in braille acquisition, are unable to access print materials without the provision of more extensive accommodations (e.g., audio books, screen readers/text-to-speech, Bookshare, or other types of alternate educational materials). Please see [LAS Links TAM Appendix F](#) for additional guidance. Additionally, it is noted and documented that due to the unique nature of the student's learning profile, the student cannot access embedded text-to-speech (TTS) through the online test platform. If this accommodation is approved and documented in the student's IEP/Section 504 Plan, then the student also receives a human reader for directions, stimuli, and item prompts for the Writing Domain and specified items on the Speaking Domain and Listening Domain as specified in the LAS Links Speaking and Listening Subtests: Items with Graphics, Charts and/or Images Read Aloud Document which can be found on the [Connecticut DRC LAS Links Website](#).

LAS Links Read Aloud of Directions and Item Prompts Only Accommodation for the Reading and Writing Domain is designated by the PPT or Section 504 team for students who **do not meet** the qualification for passages and items, either through TTS or read aloud for the Reading Domain; however, there is a documented need for directions and item prompts (Reading Domain) and stimuli and item prompts (Writing Domain) to be read by a human reader for the Reading Domain and Writing Domain.

Please Note: The CSDE recommends that educators providing this accommodation should collaborate with the IEP case manager or Section 504 manager to ensure accuracy when documenting accommodations in CT-SEDS. They should verify that these accommodations are documented for **all** grades covered by the duration of the plan. The plan must be finalized and implemented in CT-SEDS **prior to**

entering the accommodation in the [DRC INSIGHT Portal](#). Only then can a student test with accommodations on LAS Links.

What is a Human Reader?

A human reader is a trained and qualified text reader that is an adult employed by the district who has read these guidelines and agreed to the security/confidentiality protocol prior to test administration. A human reader is, as previously mentioned, trained and qualified to read the Reading Domain, either passages and items or directions and items only, depending on the accommodation, Writing Domain stimuli and items, and specified items on the LAS Links Speaking and Listening Subtests (refer to the Items with Graphics, Charts and/or Images Read Aloud Document located on the [Connecticut DRC LAS Links Website](#) for information on items to be read aloud) to the eligible student **in English** in an individual test setting.

This security protocol (located in [Appendix A](#)) must be signed by the human reader and maintained locally with the student's record.

The student depends on the test reader to read the test items in English accurately, pronounce words correctly, and speak in a clear voice throughout the test. The guiding principle in reading aloud is to ensure that the student has access to test content.

How does a teacher qualify to be a Human Reader for the LAS Links?

- The test reader should be an adult who is familiar with the student, and who is typically responsible for providing this support during educational instruction and assessments.
- Test readers must be trained in the administration of the assessment in accordance with district policy and familiar with the terminology specific to the test content and related conventions for standard oral communication.
- Test readers must be trained in LAS Links test administration and security policies and procedures.
- Test readers must read and sign a test security/confidentiality agreement prior to test administration. Please see [Appendix A](#) for the security/confidentiality agreement.
- Test readers should be aware of and familiar with all additional accommodations provided to a student in accordance with the student's finalized and implemented IEP or Section 504 Plan for the current grade of enrollment.

How is the Read Aloud Accommodation for the LAS Links provided?

- LAS Links Read Aloud of Directions and Item Prompts Only Accommodation for the Reading and Writing Domain, LAS Links Read Aloud Accommodation of the Reading Domain (Passages and Item Prompts) and Writing Domain (Stimuli and Items) with specified items for the Speaking and Listening Domains, or specified Speaking Domain and Listening Domain items for students eligible for TTS of the Reading and Writing Domains **must be provided in a separate setting** so as not to interfere with the instruction or assessment of other students.

- The reader will read each item exactly as written and as clearly as possible in English.
- Throughout the assessment, the reader will strive to communicate in a neutral tone and maintain a neutral facial expression and posture.
- The reader will avoid gesturing, head movements, or any verbal or non-verbal emphasis on words not otherwise emphasized in text.
- The reader will avoid conversing with the student about test items as this is a violation of test security; but will respond to the student's questions by repeating the item, words, or instructions verbatim as needed.
- The reader will adjust their reading speed and volume if requested by the student.
- When providing this accommodation, the reader **will not** paraphrase, interpret, define, or translate any items, words, or instructions as this is also a violation of test security.
- The reader **must not** discuss any portion of the test with others.

How does a Human Reader read passages if the student has the Read Aloud Accommodation of the Reading Domain (Passages and Item Prompts), Writing Domain (Stimuli and Items), and specified items for the Speaking and Listening Domains?

- The reader will read the reading content from the student's computer screen in its entirety as punctuated (e.g., pauses at periods and commas; raised intonation for questions). The reader will not verbalize punctuation marks other than ellipses and quotation marks as noted below.
- If the student requires or asks for a specific section of the passage to be re-read with the punctuation indicated, the test reader should re-read those specific lines within the passage and indicate all punctuation found within those lines as many times as requested by the student.
- When a test item refers to particular lines in a passage, the reader will read the lines referenced as though they are part of the item.
- For information on items to be read aloud for the Speaking and Listening Subtests, refer to the Items with Graphics, Charts, and/or Images Read Aloud Document located on the [Connecticut DRC LAS Links Website](#).

How are conventions read?

- **Punctuation:** Read all text as punctuated, unless reading the text compromises the construct being measured.
- **Ellipses:** When an ellipsis is used to signify missing text in a sentence, pause briefly, and read as “dot, dot, dot.”
- **Quotations:** Quotation marks should be verbalized as “quote” and “end quote” at the beginning and end of quoted material, respectively.
- **Emphasis:** When words are printed in boldface, italics, or capitals, tell the student that the words are printed that way. In order not to provide an unfair advantage to students receiving this support, test readers should be cautious not to emphasize words not already emphasized in print. Emphasis is appropriate when italics, underlining, or bold is used in the prompt, items, or answers.

How are images, diagrams, or graphics read?

- Before describing an image or graphic, the test reader should determine whether the details of the picture are necessary to understanding and responding to the item(s). In many cases, an image or graphic will be used to accompany a passage or reading excerpt as a piece of visual interest that is not essential in responding to the item. Typically, diagrams are imperative to student understanding and should be read in a logical order.
- Describe the image/graphic/diagram as concisely as possible following a logical progression. Focus on providing necessary information and ignoring the superfluous. Use grade-appropriate language when describing the image/graphic/diagram.
- Read the title or caption, if available.
- Any text that appears in the body of the image/graphic/diagram may be read to a student. Read text in images/graphics/diagrams in the order most suited for the student’s needs. Typically, the reader should move top to bottom, left to right, in a clockwise direction, or general to specific in accordance with teaching practices.

How are tables read?

- Read the title.
- Describe the number of columns and rows.
- Read each column/row headings.
- Read cell values (only as directional language for the first one).

Example: How to read a table.*Results from School Walk-a-Thon*

Number of Students	Number of Miles Walked
30	112
46	214
37	98
41	189

“The title of the table is Results from School Walk-a-Thon. The table has 2 columns and 4 rows. From left to right, the column headings read Number of Students, Number of Miles Walked. From left to right the first row reads thirty, one hundred twelve. The second row reads forty-six, two hundred fourteen. The third row reads thirty-seven, ninety-eight. The fourth row reads forty-one, one hundred eighty-nine.”

Please provide this signed agreement, [Appendix A](#), to the English Learner Assessment Coordinator (ELAC) for documentation purposes prior to testing. Signed forms should be maintained locally with the student’s record.

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Appendix A: LAS Links Read Aloud Accommodation Security/Confidentiality Agreement

A human reader for the LAS Links Read Aloud Accommodation is a trained, qualified adult employed by the district who has read these guidelines and agreed to the security/confidentiality protocol prior to test administration. This security protocol must be signed by the human reader and maintained locally. The human reader reads the content of the Reading Domain (Passages and Items or Directions and Items Only), Writing Domain (Stimuli and Items), and specified items on the Speaking and Listening Domain (based on documentation in CT-SEDS) to the eligible student in an individual setting. The student depends on the human reader to read in English accurately, pronounce words correctly, and speak in a clear voice throughout the test session.

The guiding principle in the LAS Links Read Aloud Accommodation is to ensure that the student has access to test content.

Verification:

By signing my name below, I verify that I have read and understand my responsibilities as a human reader as described in the LAS Links Read Aloud Accommodation Guidelines. Please maintain this signed form locally.

Human Reader/Teacher Name Printed:

Human Reader/Teacher Signature:

Date Signed:

ELAC Name Printed:

ELAC Signature:

Date Signed:

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