

## Background:

An accommodation is a change to a student's learning environment to help him learn what's being taught. It allows him to participate in the general education curriculum. An accommodation doesn't change the material that the student must learn.

An example of an accommodation is preferred seating for a student who has ADHD. Another example is more time on tests or an easier-to-read font. If your child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a 504 plan, he's entitled to reasonable accommodations.

Before talking with the school, make sure you're asking for accommodations that will help with your child's specific difficulties. They should help him participate in the general education curriculum. You may also want to ask about accommodations other children have received. This can help you decide what's right for your child.

## Script for what to say:

My child, [child's name], is in the [\_\_\_] grade at [name of school]. I'm requesting that the school provide [name of accommodation] in his IEP.

He struggles with [describe your child's area of difficulty]. He has [describe the learning or attention issue, for example dyslexia or ADHD], which limits his ability to access what other students are taught.

[Name of accommodation] will help my child [describe specifics, for example manage his ADHD]. The school should provide [name the accommodation] so that he can [describe how the accommodation will help]. You can also say if your doctor or other professional has recommended the accommodation.

## **The School May Say:**

Using a bigger font for your child's handouts would make us have to do extra work and cost too much.

## Possible response:

If my child can't read a small font, then he won't be able to learn. Under IDEA, a school can't deny an accommodation because of cost. And in any case, it's not a lot of money. I'm asking you to reconsider.

## **The School May Say:**

We can't let him sit up front because of his attention issue. If we let him choose his seat, every student will want to choose a seat.

Possible response:

I'm only asking that we make a reasonable and necessary change so that my child can learn like every other child. If he sits closer to the teacher or away from distractions, he'll be more likely to pay attention. He's legally entitled to accommodations that allow him to learn what other children are being taught.