

Accommodations:

A Parent / Guardian's Guide to Success

Video Transcript

[Start of transcript]

Host: "Hello, and welcome to our discussion on accommodations and modifications. Understanding these tools and supports are key to supporting student success in the classroom. Let's explore what they are and how they can help."

Host: "Accommodations and modifications are strategies used to support students with disabilities in accessing the curriculum. Accommodations are changes in how a student learns the material, while modifications are changes in what a student is expected to learn. Both aim to provide students with equal opportunities to succeed."

Host: "Accommodations might include extended time on tests or preferential seating. They don't alter the educational standards. Modifications, on the other hand, might involve changing the curriculum expectations, such as simplifying assignments or altering grading criteria or having a specific staff member provide on-going support to a student such as a para."

Host: "Decisions about accommodations and modifications are made by the IEP team during the IEP meeting, which includes educators, specialists, and you—the parents or guardians. This team assesses the student's needs and determines the most effective strategies to support their learning."

Host: "Teachers and school staff are responsible for implementing accommodations and modifications. They ensure these supports are effectively integrated into the student's day-to-day learning environment by following what is written in the IEP."

Host: "If an accommodation or modification isn't effective or needed anymore, the IEP team will reconvene to reassess the student's needs. Adjustments are made to tailor the educational approach, ensuring continuous and appropriate support. Changes and adjustments are usually decided as a team at the annual IEP meeting."

Host: "Parents and guardians are vital members of the IEP team. Your insights and observations about your child's learning experiences at home are crucial. As students get older or can articulate their needs, asking for a student's insight on what would help them in their educational setting is a great way for a student to be involved in their IEP. Engage with teachers regularly, share feedback, and advocate for necessary changes to the support plan."

Host: "If you have questions or concerns about accommodations or modifications, reach out to your child's teacher or the special education coordinator. Open communication is key to ensuring strategies are working and your child's needs are being met."

Host: "Accommodations and modifications are essential tools in creating an inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive. Your involvement and advocacy play a significant role in making sure your child receives the support they need. Thank you for your commitment to their education!"

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