



Unique Accommodation: Guidance Document on CMAS Spoken Response for ELA/CSLA¹ Constructed Response

The Spoken Response accommodation for Constructed Response items on the CMAS English Language Arts (ELA) and Colorado Spanish Language Arts (CSLA) assessment is available to a very limited number of students who have a neurological¹ or orthopedic impairment, which significantly limits or prevents the students' motor process of **writing**. There must be a direct connection between the student's disability and the ability to access the assessment. Students must have this accommodation in their IEP or 504 plan for instructional and assessment purposes. Only students who meet specific guidance criteria may use this accommodation on the CMAS ELA or CSLA assessment and receive a valid score.

The Spoken Response accommodation is not intended for students with illegible handwriting or poor writing skills (this includes students whose spelling and/or word choice may be below grade level or who may have a language-based disability), dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, students with behavioral issues to avoid writing, social-emotional delays, students who struggle with writing due to limited instruction, or the student's dictation performance over writing/typing. It is intended for students who have significant difficulties due to a neurological or orthopedic impairment that affects the student's motor process of writing.

Follow the instructions in the Unique Accommodation Request (UAR) form.

- Enter **all** the information on the UAR form for CMAS ELA/CSLA Constructed Response.
 - Complete Criterion 1.
 - Identify the most recent date of the student's IEP or 504 plan. **The plan date must be within one year of the submission date.** UARs with an "Expected implementation" of an IEP or 504 plan will not be reviewed.
 - When submitting documentation, include only the page(s) of the IEP or 504 plan where the Spoken Response accommodation is documented. **Do not submit the full IEP or 504 plan.**
 - Identify the disability that interferes with the student's access to the test.
 - In the "Request" area, indicate if the request is for Spoken Response on:
 - CMAS ELA (grades 3-8) or CSLA (grades 3-4).
 - Starting with Criterion 2, select the response that best answers the Criterion for the student. The Criterion indicates either "**STOP HERE**" or "**COMPLETE THE SUPPORTING DATA.**" **If at any time the selected response indicates "STOP HERE", the team should stop the checklist. "STOP HERE" indicates that the student does not meet the requirements to receive a valid score when using the requested accommodation.**
 - In Criterion 2, a summary of the impairment's impact on the student's ability to access the Constructed Response must be provided.
 - In Criterion 3, a summary of the fine motor evaluation **must** be provided.
 - All supporting evidence, documentation, and diagnostic assessments submitted **must** be completed within the current school year.

¹Note: Prior to submitting a UAR for CSLA, verify the student's eligibility using the Spanish Eligibility Flowchart(s) located on the [CSI Resource Site](#).

²Note: Qualifying neurological impairments that do not impede access to the motor process of writing, such as dyslexia and ADHD, are not eligible for the Writer/Scribe accommodation.



If all criteria are met, submit the UAR form, current-year supporting data, and the page(s) of the IEP or 504 plan where the Spoken Response accommodation is documented to Google Drive. **A UAR submitted without complete information, including current English or Spanish (CSLA) documentation and data, will not be reviewed.**

- In Criterion 4, submission data **must** be included. The Criterion 4 data attachment includes:
 - Spoken Response for the computer-based test
 - The student's keyboarding sample (unsupported) with the time it took to complete the sample.
 - Spoken Response for the paper-based test (only if the student qualifies for paper-based testing)
 - The student's handwriting sample (unsupported) with the time it took to complete the sample.
 - If unable to provide writing or keyboarding samples, submit an explanation of the student's inability to provide the samples.
 - Only submissions with valid documentation will be considered for approval.

The deadline for CMAS Spoken Response submissions is December 1, 2025.

If the request is approved by CDE, the student may receive a valid score on the assessment when using this accommodation.

If the accommodation is not approved and the educational team provides the accommodation during the administration of the CMAS ELA/CSLA assessment, CDE will instruct the district to indicate that a non-approved accommodation was used on the assessment. This will result in the CMAS ELA/CSLA score being invalidated or suppressed and the student will be considered a “non-participant” for the ELA/CSLA portion.