Focus on Assessment

Required Test Security Training Now Available on Pathlore!

Test security and administration training for CCSD's online assessments has been assigned to administrators and licensed personnel on Pathlore. Annual participation in test security training is required by the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 390.300 and the Nevada Department of Education for all teachers and educational personnel who provide instruction to pupils and all school personnel involved with high-stakes tests. If support staff are involved in test administration, their participation is required. **Please submit support staff names to Anne Jacklin, via InterAct, and the training will be assigned.**

BREAKING NEWS

Chromebooks or tablets are not compatible for WIDA testing because of the speaking component. Please note, this also applies to other online tests that have student accommodations of ASL videos and the designated support of text-to-speech.

ACT Testing Dates to Remember

The 2016-2017 ACT administration is approaching quickly for high schools. Students must test within the window established below.

Test Administration	Dates
Initial test date (paper)	February 28, 2017
Online testing window	February 28 – March 14, 2017
Accommodations testing window (paper)	February 28 – March 14, 2017
Makeup test date (paper)	March 21, 2017

High school test coordinators are receiving correspondence from ACT to assist with the steps to prepare for the test administration. There are also a variety of resources on the ACT website (act.org/stateanddistrict/nevada) which include guides, manuals, and training to support implementation.

A live webinar will be conducted by ACT on **February 8, 2017, at 2 p.m.** to review procedures and answer questions from participants. Test coordinators will receive an email from ACT with a link to register for the webinar.

Questions can be directed to the Assessment Department at
(702) 799-1041, Ext. 5258 or 5953

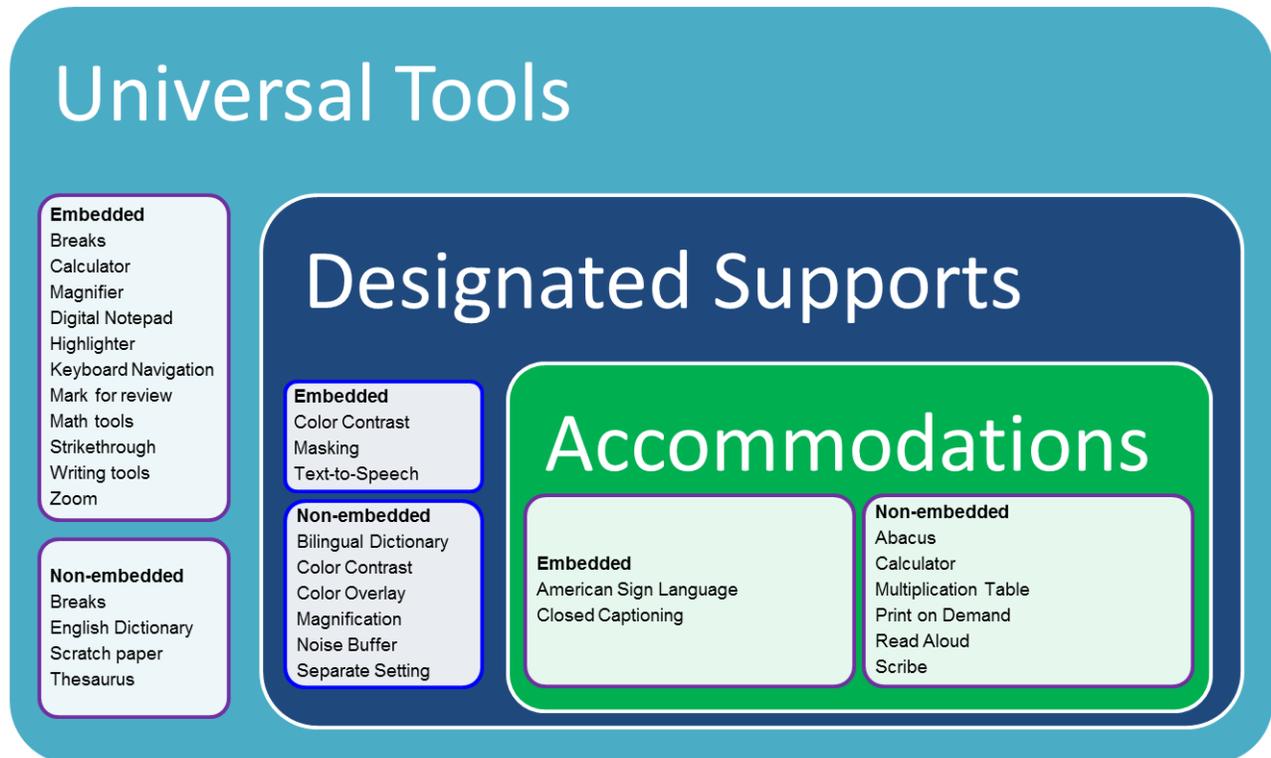## Let the WIDA Testing Begin!

WIDA testing is in full swing with 58,864 students slated to be tested. The Assessment Itinerant Testers are administering the kindergarten assessment for 5,350 students during the next month. They are there to support schools for a successful test administration and are eager to assist. After WIDA testing, Assessment Itinerant Testers can assist with printing test tickets and creating test sessions for test administration teams.

We appreciate everyone's positive involvement!

Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations Framework

As we move into the 2017 testing season, the focus will be on the tools and supports available to ensure equal access for all students on the state-mandated summative assessments.

Universal Tools, such as a digital notepad and the use of scratch paper, are available to all students. **Embedded** tools are those which are provided by the computer within the testing environment when appropriate. For example, a calculator appears on the screen for questions in which it may be used as a Universal Tool. Universal Tools are used by students during the test, based on the student's preference and self-selection.

Universal Tools

Embedded
Breaks
Calculator
Magnifier
Digital Notepad
Highlighter
Keyboard Navigation
Mark for review
Math tools
Strikethrough
Writing tools
Zoom

Non-embedded
Breaks
English Dictionary
Scratch paper
Thesaurus

Designated Supports

Embedded
Color Contrast
Masking
Text-to-Speech

Non-embedded
Bilingual Dictionary
Color Contrast
Color Overlay
Magnification
Noise Buffer
Separate Setting

Accommodations

Embedded
American Sign Language
Closed Captioning

Non-embedded
Abacus
Calculator
Multiplication Table
Print on Demand
Read Aloud
Scribe

Designated Supports are available to any student who needs them but they should also be receiving these supports in their classrooms. Do students typically receive a support such as text-to-speech in their daily instruction? If the answer is yes, then it would be appropriate to offer the same support on the test. Providing *Designated Supports* to students who do not receive them during classroom instruction could cause confusion during the assessment.

Teachers working directly with students are best-suited to make decisions about who receives *Designated Supports.* Once these decisions have been made, it will be essential that the supports are entered into the DRC system to ensure the embedded supports are activated prior to testing. **Non-embedded supports** may be provided at the time of testing.

Accommodations are adaptations or adjustments to the test which allow students who have been identified through their IEP or Section 504 plans to equitably access the test material. Accommodations, which the Test Administrator will activate for these students, should align with their IEP or Section 504 plan. This year DRC has provided Video American Sign Language which would be appropriate for your deaf and hard of hearing students for whom this support is identified in the IEP.

The Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) *Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines* provides specific information on which tools, supports, and accommodations DRC provides for the summative assessments and details about the functionality of each tool.

Adapted from: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. "Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines." Testing Manual, July 1, 2016.