

Purpose: Making TFA ADA compliant in accommodations during competition. Schools will submit a form documenting accommodation to be allowed in rounds.

Rationale: There is currently no process to document students that have auditory/visual impairments and the accommodations that they require.

The school should submit a form to be completed by an appropriate administrator after consultation with a properly constituted Sec. 504 Committee and/or A.R.D. Committee.

After reviewing the Committee's determinations regarding a student's need for accommodation in order to participate in a speech and debate contest, the superintendent of schools, campus principal or designee is to review all relevant information and, unless the administrator has a legitimate basis for concern, sign the Accomodation form. By signing this form, the administrator verifies that a properly constituted 504 Committee and/or A.R.D. Committee has made the required determinations in reference to the physical or mental impairment that leads to the request for accommodation.

The administrator must review the following documents:

- Current accommodation plan and/or I.E.P.
- 504 Committee and/or A.R.D. Committee notes/reports on initial eligibility and placement
- Current 504 accommodation plan or report of Committee meeting where student was dismissed from 504
- Documentation substantiating the physical or mental impairment;
- Documentation supporting the finding of substantial limitation

No records are to be submitted to TFA. The only required submission to TFA is a signed application form.

The ADA and Section 504 require that accommodations be provided to individuals with disabilities when certain conditions are satisfied. Each case will be decided on its own merits. In reaching its decisions, the TFA will follow applicable law and consider the following:

- whether the requested accommodation(s) is "reasonable"
- whether the requested accommodation(s) is "necessary,"
- whether the requested accommodation(s) would "fundamentally alter the nature of" the competition, either because it would alter an "essential aspect of the event" or give the student an "advantage over others and, for that reason, fundamentally alter the character" of the competition.

Submitted by: A.J. Martinez  
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