



SST8 FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Issue 6

January 2016

Ohio's State Tests Accessibility Manual – What Parents and Families Should Know

Beginning this school year, Ohio schools will no longer give PARCC tests in math and English language arts. Another company (AIR) will create Ohio's math and English language arts tests with input from Ohio teachers. This company has produced Ohio's science and social studies tests for the last decade. Ohio is committed to providing ALL students with equitable access to high-quality assessments that measure what is important for students to know and be able to do. "All students" includes students with disabilities, English language learners, English language learners with disabilities, as well as underserved populations. By applying principles of universal design (allowing students to receive information and show what they know in ways to best fit how they learn) and embedding and allowing a broad range of accessibility features, Ohio's State Tests provide opportunities for the widest possible number of students to demonstrate their

knowledge and skills. Ohio's philosophy is that, when all students are taught with high expectations, they will have access to the full range of grade-level and course content standards and have much higher achievement.

Ohio's Accessibility Manual is a comprehensive policy document providing information about the accessibility features of *Ohio's State Tests* for grades 3-8 and high school in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

Ohio's goals for promoting student access include:

- Applying principles of universal design to the development of the assessments such that the assessments provide the greatest amount of accessibility and minimize test related barriers for all students;
- Measuring the full range of complexity of the standards;
- Leveraging technology for the accessible delivery of the assessments;
- Building accessibility throughout the test without sacrificing assessment validity; and
- Using a combination of accessible design and accessible technol-

ogies when items and tasks were developed.

The manual helps to define the specific accessibility features available for all students, students with disabilities, students who are English language learners and students who are English language learners with disabilities. Ohio's Accessibility System features are made up of accommodations for students with disabilities and English language learners as well as other features including administrative considerations, universal tools and designated supports. Training is taking place across the state for administration and teachers to be able to prepare students to use the accessibility features on the tests by utilizing those features during lessons. **(Continued on page 2)**

In This Issue

- **Ohio's State Tests Accessibility Manual article**
- **Article continued**
- **Agency Spotlight**
- **SST8 Information**



(Continued from Page 1)

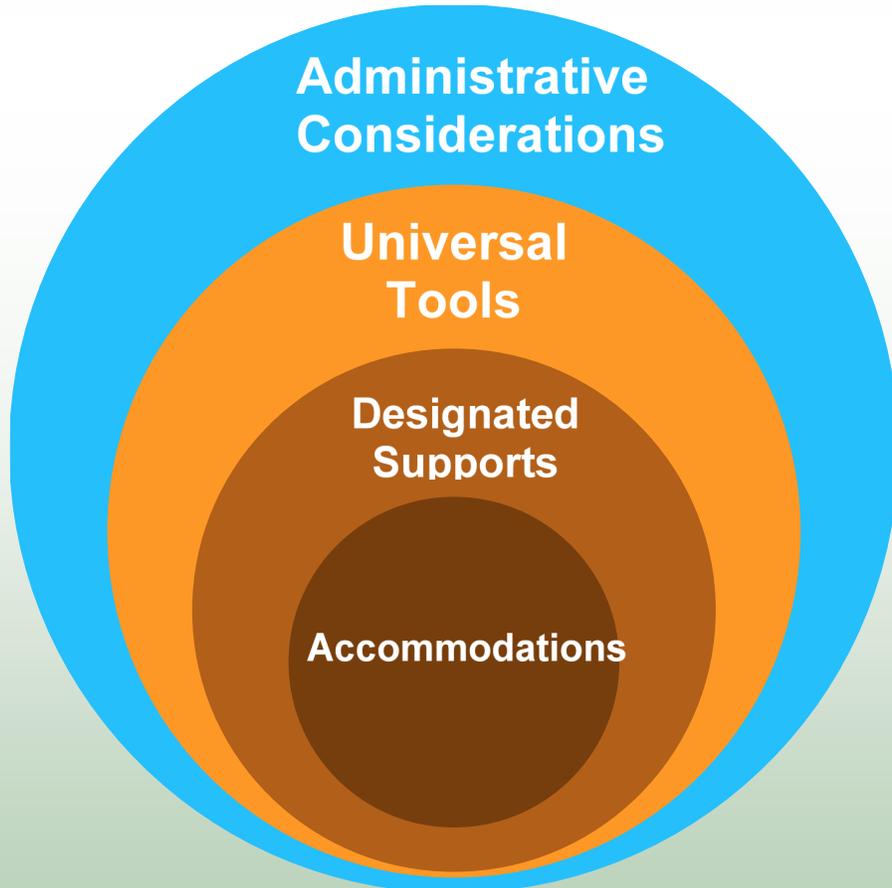
Read more about the accessibility feature available to ALL student as well as the accommodations available to students with disabilities and English language learners at the following link.

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing/Special-Testing-Accommodations/Accommodations-on-State-Assessments>

Ohio’s accessibility system graphic is below. Through this combination of universal design principles and

computer-embedded accessibility features, Ohio has designed an inclusive assessment system by considering accessibility from initial design through item development, field-testing and implementation of the assessments for all students. Although accommodations may still be needed for some students with disabilities and English language learners to assist in demonstrating what they know and can do, the computer-embedded accessibility features should minimize the need for accommodations

during testing and ensure the inclusive, accessible and fair testing of the diverse students being assessed.





Maplewood Career Center

Portage Lakes Career Center

Medina County Career Center

Agency Spotlight

The three career centers located in our three county region are Maplewood Career Center in Portage County, Portage Lakes Career Center in Summit County and the Medina County Career Center.

The **Maplewood Career Center** is located at 7075 OH-88, Ravenna, OH 44266. Their phone number is 330 296-2892 and website information is: www.mwood.cc Maplewood Career Center gives students the opportunity to become actively involved in the learning process through instruction and skill practices. Building confidence and practical expertise is their goal for the students.

The **Portage Lakes Career Center** takes pride in helping you get a head start on a successful path in life. Whether you are a parent, high school student or adult learner, they hope to assist you in discovering the opportunities that are available there. They are located at 4401 Shriver Road, Uniontown, OH 44685. Their phone number is 330 896-8200. More information available at their website: plcc.edu

The **Medina County Career Center** is a learning community where students focus on advanced career training and academic excellence for technical life-long success. It is located at 1101 W. Liberty Street, Medina, OH 44256, phone number 330 725-8461 and website: <https://mcjvs.edu>

Contact information:

To subscribe to the SST8 Family Newsletter, contact Alice Doyle at aliced@cybersummit.org and type “parent email list” in subject line. Check out our website at: sst8.org

We are currently collecting information for our **Summer Camps & Fun Activities Book for 2016**. If anyone has a camp or activity they would like to submit, please email Alice Doyle at aliced@cybersummit.org.

The PAC Meeting for February’s Topic is: **Self-Advocacy**—Make a difference in a child’s life. Help them develop the skills that will serve them for a lifetime. This meeting will be held on February 10, 2016 from 9:30 am—12:30 pm. A flyer will be sent out mid January.

Happy New Year!



State Support Team Region 8

Supporting Medina, Portage, and Summit Counties

420 Washington Avenue

Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221

PH:330/929-6634 FAX:330/945-6222 www.sst8.org

IDEA Disclaimer Notice

This document/product/software was supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, (Award #H027A150111, CFDA 84.027A, awarded to the Ohio Department of Education). The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and no official endorsement by the Department should be inferred.

