

## Special Needs Students

The University Interscholastic League receives requests for modifications to contests in order to accommodate students with special needs including sight or hearing impairments and physical handicaps. We applaud these students desiring to compete in UIL contests and sincerely work with schools to enable students with special needs to participate.

There are procedures in place for the League to examine each individual case in order to ensure that a request for modification does not give the special needs student an advantage in the competition or put the other competitors at a disadvantage. UIL staff members must look at the needs of everyone involved. It is always the responsibility of the host school, contest director and contestant to follow the Spring Meet Code to ensure the honesty of the competitors and the integrity of the competition.

### Evaluation Guidelines

The UIL evaluates each modification request under the following guidelines:

- 1) Can the student compete at the same time as the other contestants?
- 2) Does the student who has to be given special modifications gain an advantage?
- 3) Do the modifications cause the other contestants to work at a disadvantage?

### Requesting a Modification

Contact the UIL State Speech and Debate Director if the student desires to compete in a public speaking, oral interpretation, or debate event. **Make your request in writing on official school stationery as far in advance of the contest as possible, (a minimum of two weeks prior to the contest). Requests will not be accepted over the phone.**

Address the evaluation guidelines, giving sufficient documentation regarding the disability. Include the modifications requested for the contest and the modification the school makes for the student daily. The conditions of the adaptations must adhere to the following criteria:

- A) The student must be able to compete at the same time as the other contestants.
- B) The student who is given special consideration does not gain an advantage over other contestants.
- C) The student who is given the special consideration does not cause the other contestants to work at a disadvantage.

**If the State Office approves modifications, it is the academic coach's responsibility to provide copies of the response to all affected host schools of the competition.** Only one response letter is needed from UIL for the adaptation to be permitted at any level of spring meet academic competition. However, if the student advances to the next higher meet, it is the responsibility of the student's school to notify the regional or state office immediately. Additional costs or equipment required for modifications are the responsibility of the school district.

### Additional Questions

For further details see the official UIL website at:

*<http://www.uiltexas.org/academics/meets/special-needs/>*

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