

## Test Security Violations and Students with Disabilities

District Test Coordinators (DTCs) and School Test Coordinators (STCs) should work closely with special education coordinators and teachers within the schools to ensure that all accommodations are provided for students with disabilities in accordance with each student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Accommodation Plan.

The State Board of Education Regulations 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-100 (2011) state that **not providing accommodations** (to include customized test forms) as specified for students with IEPs or 504 Plans or **providing more accommodations** than specified is considered a breach of professional ethics that may jeopardize the validity of the inferences made on the basis of test data. As such, these actions are viewed as security violations that could result in criminal prosecution and/or disciplinary action to an educator's professional certificate.

**In the event of a test security violation involving testing accommodations for students with disabilities, the DTC must report the test security violation in accordance with the procedure outlined in the *Test Administration Manual (TAM)* for each assessment program and as posted at: <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/ac/Assessment/TestSecurity.cfm>. (Click on the Reporting Test Security Violations link.)**

**In addition, the school/district must convene the IEP/504 Plan team to review the test security violation.** During the meeting of the IEP/504 Plan team, the team may consider only the testing accommodations as written in the IEP/504 Plan and may not change the accommodations specified in the plans. The IEP or 504 Plan team must address the test security violation as follows:

- **If a student received a non-standard accommodation** that is not specified in the IEP/504 Plan, the team must **invalidate** the test administration by darkening the IEP Invalidation bubble on the student's answer document for the appropriate test.
- **If a student received a standard accommodation** that is not specified in the IEP/504 Plan, the team must determine if the unauthorized accommodation would cause the test score to be invalid.
- **If a student did not receive a standard or non-standard accommodation** that is specified in the IEP/504 Plan, the team must determine whether the test score would be valid without the specified accommodation and/or non-standard accommodation.

If the IEP/504 Plan team determines that:

- **the test administration is valid**, the test is returned for scoring. Remember to mark the appropriate accommodation code(s)—i.e., the code(s) for the accommodation(s) actually used—on the student's answer document.
- **the test administration is not valid**, the school/district must invalidate the score by darkening the IEP invalidation bubble on the student's answer document. Return the answer document to the contractor in a scorable box.

**NOTE:** Invalidation procedures may vary depending on the particular assessment program.