



New York State
Disability Services Council

NYS Higher Education Plan 2012-2020

Page 16 (1st full paragraph) 36-part UD Review checklist

As New York State's assessments transition to the Common Core, the State's tests will continue to adhere to the rigorous guidelines set forth in the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (AERA, APA, NCME, 1999) as well as the United States Department of Education's peer review process. Beginning in the 2012-13 school year, all new assessment content frameworks, test specifications, and items will undergo the scrutiny of full Universal Design reviews prior to operationalization. Additionally, each assessment item and passage will be subjected to a 36-part Universal Design Review checklist to ensure the item or passage will perform as expected for all students, especially our State's population of students with disabilities. Moreover NYSED's comprehensive accommodations policies and procedures support all students with disabilities so they will continue successful access to assessments as the tests transition to the Common Core.

Reply: Barriers for accessibility of online content and software programs exists for students with disabilities. In general NYSDSC supports consideration for universal design as long as accessibility standards for students with disabilities are followed. The National Center on Universal Design's UDL guidelines – Version 2 <http://www.udlcenter.org/aboutudl/udlguidelines/downloads> provides universal design with accessibility included and NYSDSC recommends this standard. Internet and technology provides many learning options and NY State Education must commit to accessibility. Accommodations are necessary within the implementation of the common core in 2012-13 and particularly important within the resources and technology development that is proposed for “robust curricular modules”. All approved modules and technology should be developed according to the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). (i.e. Comprehensive video series of over 500 videos depicting exemplary classroom-level implementation must have open caption options or not allowed to be used).