



## OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS RELEASES TESTING GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

To ensure accuracy in the high stakes testing of students with disabilities, exams must be developed to effectively measure students' knowledge and skills, states new draft guidance released by the Office of Civil Rights.

Titled *The Use of Tests When Making High-Stakes Decisions for Students: A Resource Guide for Educators and Policy Makers*, the Office of Civil Rights, based in Washington, D.C., is making its third attempt at clarifying professional standards related to high stakes testing, including those accommodations needed to administer exams to students with disabilities.

"In determining how to use academic tests appropriately for students with disabilities, educators and policymakers should consider

how to minimize the influence of the impairments in measuring the intended constructs," the guideline states. "Different types of disabilities yield significantly different constellations of issues."

The updated and comprehensive set of government guidelines map various testing situations that were deemed "especially relevant" for administering exams to students with disabilities.

*The draft can be found at [www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/testing](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/testing).*

