Accommodation Update

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Agenda

- Overview
- Testing Accommodations
- Documentation
- Helping Strategies
- Questions

Accommodations Overview

Purpose of Accommodations

Not a Guarantee of improvement

Individualized Consideration

Appropriate Documentation

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What's considered a disability?

Learning and Other Cognitive Disabilities	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	Psychological and Psychiatric Disorders	Physical Disorders and Chronic Health Conditions

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What is NOT considered a disability?

ESL

"Slow Learner"

Active substance abuser

Test anxiety

Homemade diagnoses

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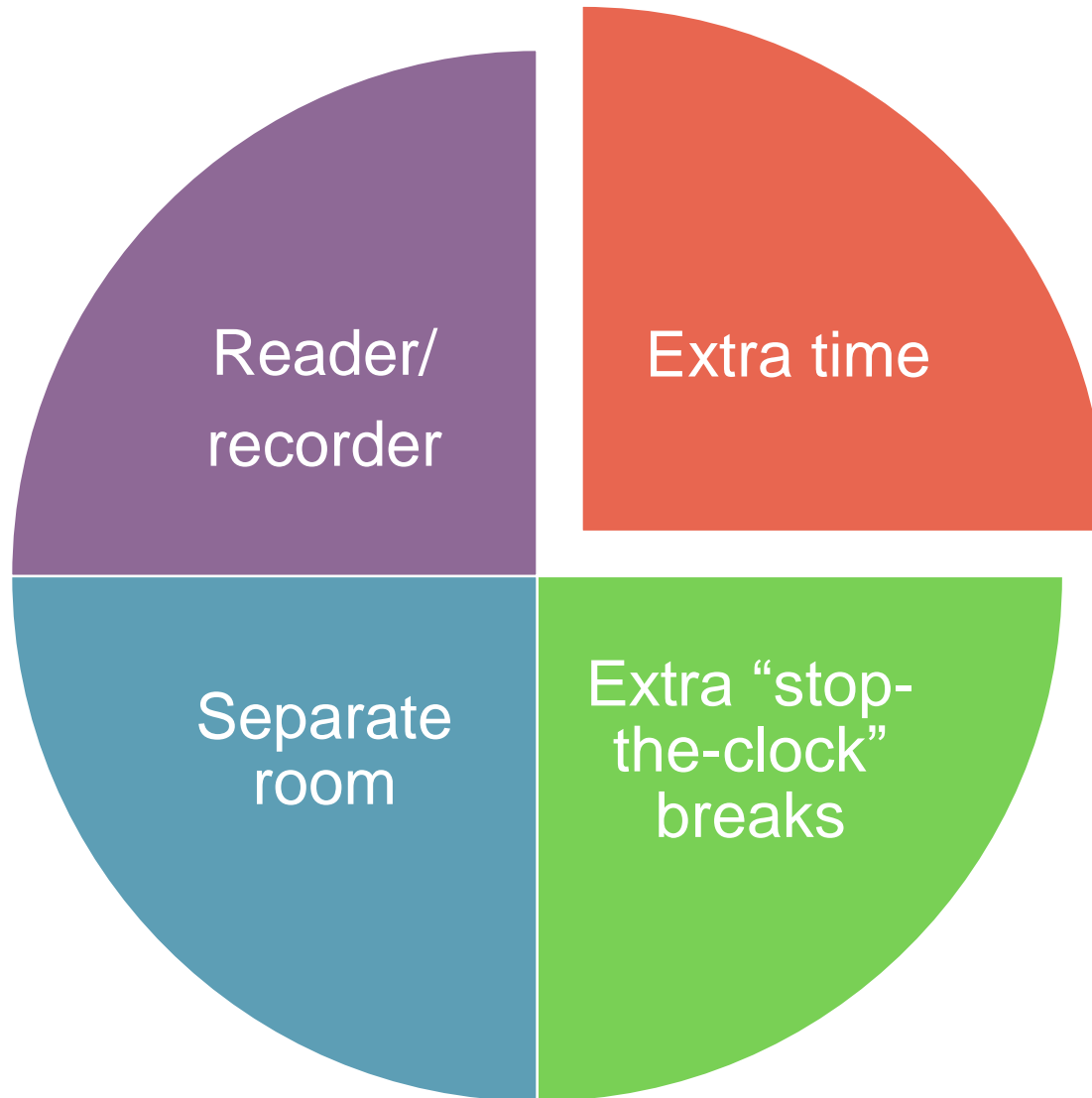# Accommodation vs Accessibility

Accommodation	• Modifications for an individual tester based on a specific disability
Accessibility	• Universal access features available to all testers

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Commonly Requested Accommodations

Reader/recorder

Extra time

Separate room

Extra "stop-the-clock" breaks

2017 Accommodation Determinations

Denied
37 applications
1%

Incomplete
558 applications
16%

Approved
2,996
applications
83%

■ Approved ■ Incomplete ■ Denied

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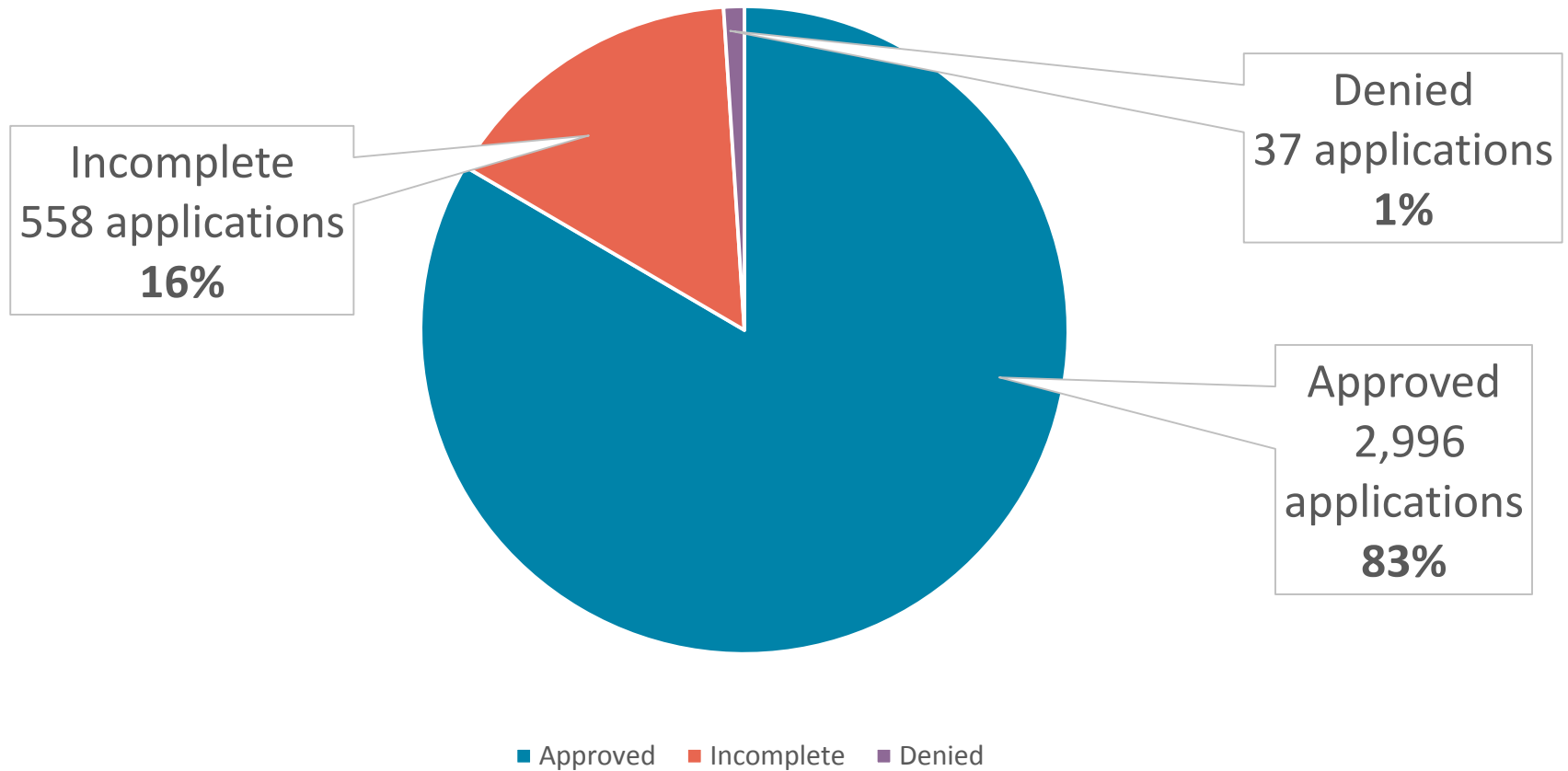
2018 Accommodation Determinations (through June)

Incomplete
539 Applications
21%

Denied
22 Applications
1%

Approved
2052
78%

■ Approved ■ Incomplete ■ Denied
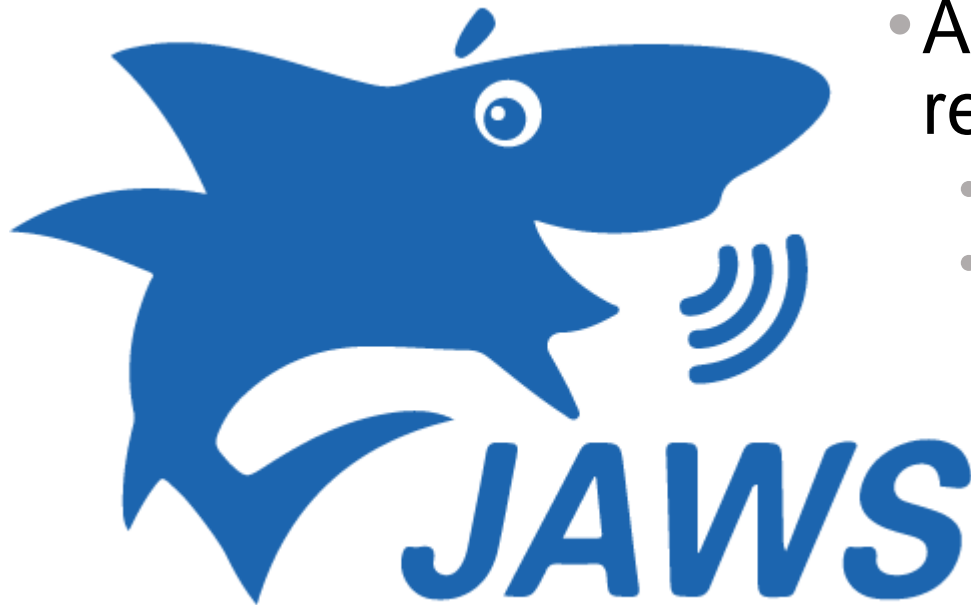
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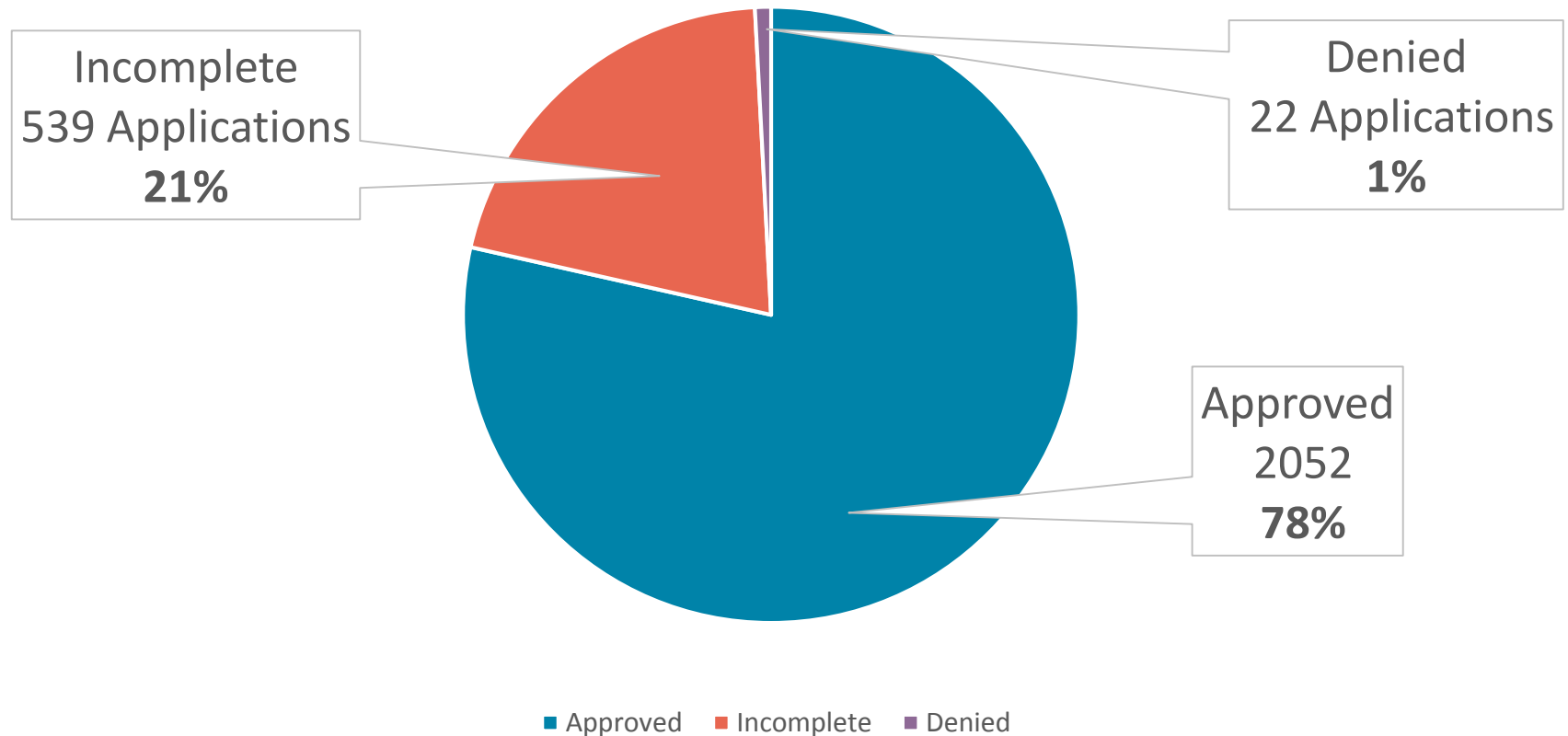
Assistive Technology

Universal Access features

Adaptive equipment

Magnification

JAWS

JAWS – Job Access With Speech

- Availability
- Proficiency requirements
- Approved candidates receive:
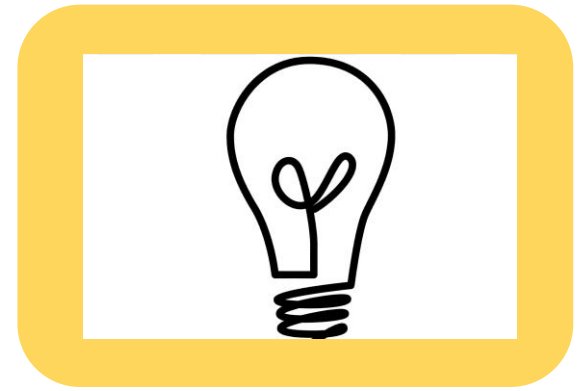 - Free practice test link
  - keyboard shortcut reference

Emerging Trends in Accommodations and Accessibility

Accommodation vs Fundamental Alteration

Accommodations vs Security

Non-standard requests

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Ensuring Tester and Staff Security

- Threats to safety
- Candidate misbehavior in the test center
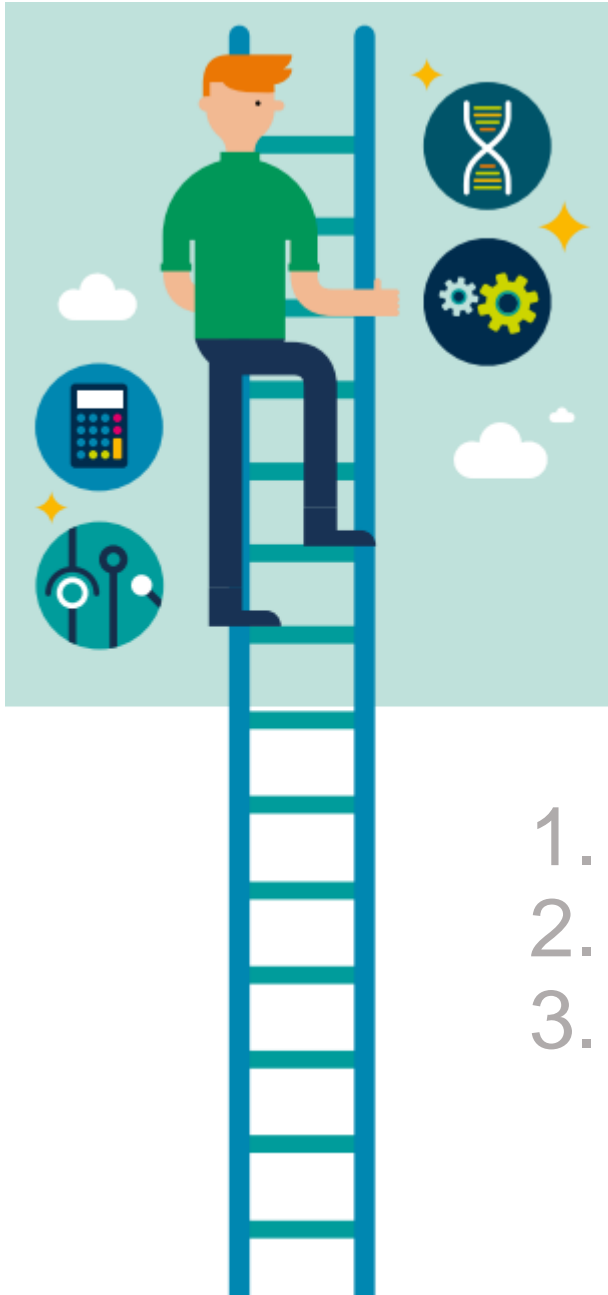- Managing potentially dangerous candidates

GEDTS Accommodation Review Process

- Who reviews requests?
- Where are the documentation guidelines?
- How do we make a determination?
  - Consider all documentation
  - Continual calibration
  - Written explanations
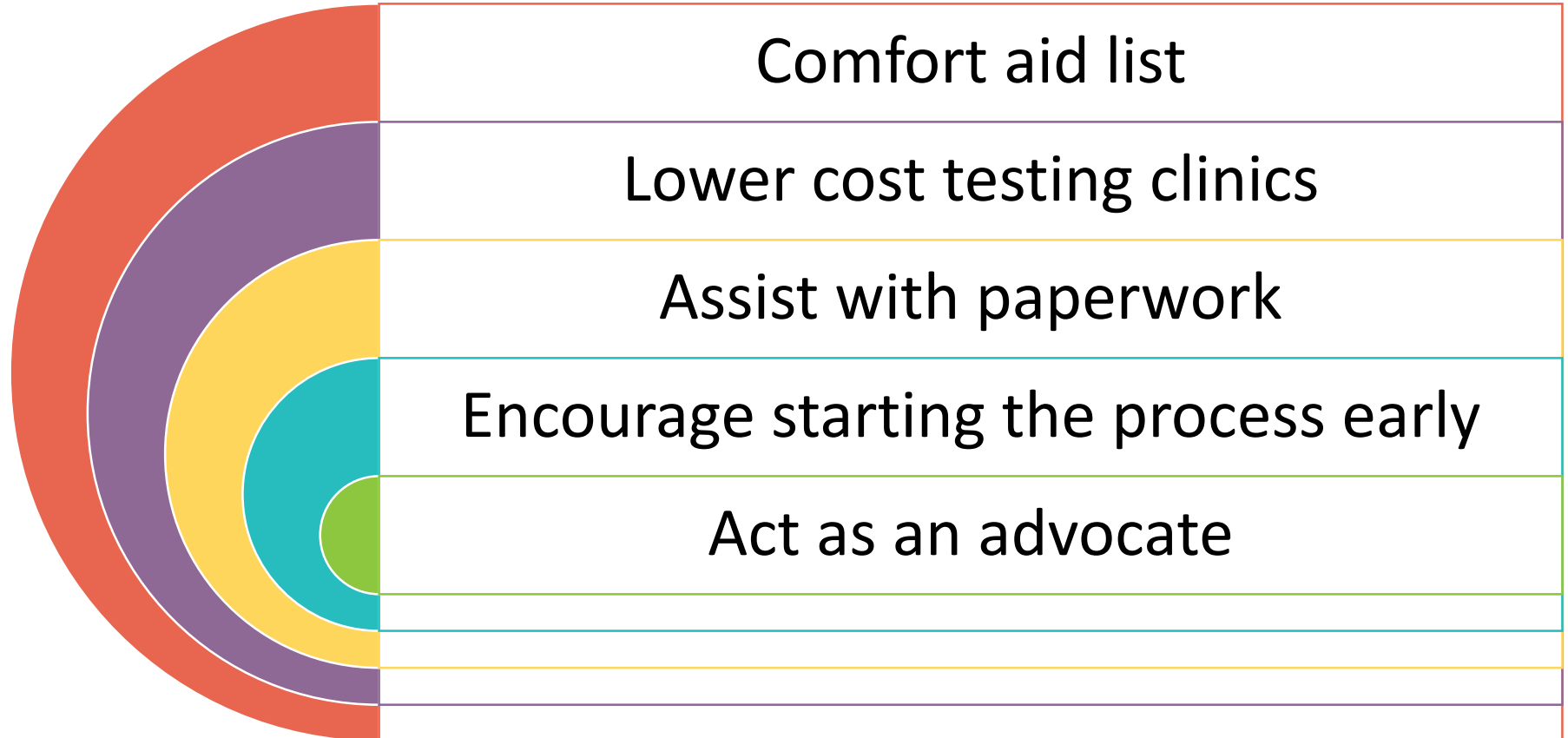
Incomplete Documentation

Top 3 causes of an incomplete application

1. No supporting documentation
2. Missing pages
3. Outdated documentation

How can you help your students?

Comfort aid list

Lower cost testing clinics

Assist with paperwork

Encourage starting the process early

Act as an advocate

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Examples of Unacceptable Requests

Candidate wants to take the test at home

Candidate wants his father to proctor the exam

Candidate wants to use friend as the reader

Candidate wants to test on her laptop

Candidate asks for "unlimited time"

Candidate asks for "extra time"

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Examples of Unacceptable Evaluators

- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
- Pastoral Counselor
- School Counselor
- Family physician (learning disabilities)
- Teacher
- Parent
- Neighbor

Outer Limits of Accommodations

| The accommodation cannot be so extreme that test validity is compromised | • 6X standard time |
| The accommodation cannot fundamentally alter the test's purpose | • Waiving a portion of the test |
| The accommodation cannot jeopardize test security or the safety of staff/others | • Testing at home
• Administer medical care |

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The Path to Request Accommodations

Using the Reasonable Adjustment Request System

Online Request System

- Benefits
  - Paper forms are replaced with 6 easy steps
  - Immediate feedback
  - Secure environment
  - No need to pay for faxing services
- *Paper request forms available at* https://ged.com/educators_admins/test_admin/corrections/
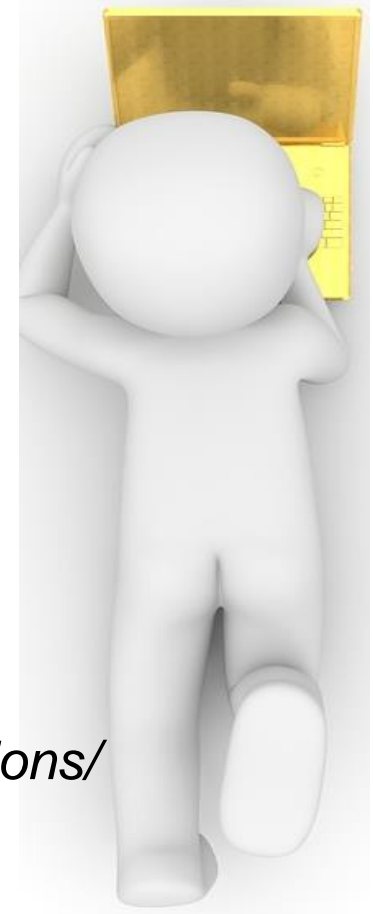
Resources

- Accommodation page
  https://ged.com/about_test/accommodations/

- Paper request forms
  https://ged.com/educators_admins/test_admin/corrections/

Questions?

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