

Adaptations, accommodations, and modifications may seem like interchangeable terms, but when it comes to special education they have different meanings.

Adaptations provide a way to:

- Maximize opportunities for interactions between students;
- Increase the student's opportunities to be an active participant;
- Increase the opportunities for students to learn concepts in real and concrete ways;
- Make the information relevant to the student's current and future life; and
- Help create a match between the student's learning style and the teacher's teaching style!

ADAPTATIONS

are any adjustments or changes made to the environment, curriculum, instruction or assessment practices in order for students to be successful learners. Both accommodations and modifications are types of adaptations.

What's
the
difference?

ACCOMMODATIONS

are changes in how a student accesses information and demonstrates learning. They do not substantially change the instructional level, the content, or the performance criteria.

MODIFICATIONS

are changes in what a student is expected to learn and demonstrate when participating in the general education curriculum. They do not mean that the student must have a separate or parallel curriculum. However, at the high school level, such changes do mean that a student will not graduate with a regular North Carolina diploma.