

# Maximizing Fidelity and Validity of Remotely Administered Assessments



Are you worried about the validity of your assessment data in a remote environment? Review these tips and devise a plan for assessment that meets your unique needs.



To maximize the likelihood of obtaining useful assessment data, aim to limit or minimize departures from standardization as much as possible. Document any departures from standardization for consideration when interpreting the data. Consider how adjustments made to administration conditions may impact the reliability and validity, and appropriately adjust conclusions or recommendations adding notes of caution where needed. The standards (i.e., benchmarks) used for interpretation will remain the same.



For all assessments, review the information in the appropriate manuals relevant to accommodations used. This information is usually located in a section labeled "Approved Accommodations." These sections explain accommodations that may be provided to students. For example, enlarged print for students with visual impairments is a typical accommodation. Accommodations that are unapproved and may impact interpretation also are discussed. In instances where unapproved accommodations are used, intra-individual comparisons may be considered more appropriate than comparing student data relative to benchmarks.



Everyone must be trained to administer with high fidelity. Use assessment checklists and experienced test administrators in the school/district to support training needs, provide booster training sessions, and conduct fidelity checks. Examine fidelity of data collection in an ongoing fashion. Ask how confident you are in the fidelity of the data when collected.



Pre-correct for parents/caregivers providing too much support during the assessments. Communicate the purpose of the assessments to parents and other caregivers. Without accurate data, needs may not become known and addressed. Obtaining accurate data helps educators know where students are in their learning so they can move forward from there. Parents/caregivers need to understand the important roles they play and the scope of those roles. Ensure the parent knows the data will not be a part of the student's grade.

**For more guidance about assessing your students, please read our Fall 2020 Guidance for Assessment at [voyagersopris.com/remote-learning](https://voyagersopris.com/remote-learning).**



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