

City  
Date

From  
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School/Institute

To  
The Chairman of  
,

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Sub: Requisition of suitable Exam Accommodations for students with Autism**

**Ref: [www.ncaindia.org](http://www.ncaindia.org)**

I'm ———, the principal of ———— school of ———— city, .  
Being an inclusive school, few students with Autism have been studying here in different grades.

From the experience gained while coaching these students with Autism, the teachers and us with education administering responsibilities, have come up with following observations:

- 1.Many children with Autism have above average IQ. But the Autistic child's academic performance is adversely compromised due to the unsuitable exam accommodation pattern presently mandated by the Education boards in India. The present system is designed and set up for a child with Dyslexia and not taking into consideration a student with Autism .The needs of students with Autism and Dyslexia are entirely different.
2. On a more specific note, due to significant speech delay, the descriptive type of testing being followed hitherto, is not the right approach for evaluating an *Autistic* child's performance. The "junior student as a scribe" is meant for students with dyslexia, who can speak very well with no social delays, but have reading & writing delays. *Whereas Autism is a neurological developmental disorder that affects a child's speech & social skills mainly.*(Ref. :[www.ncaindia.org](http://www.ncaindia.org) for details)

**In conclusion there is an immediate need for different set of exam accommodations aligned to the specific needs of Students with Autism .**

Considering the altogether different needs of students with Autism, with significant speech delay ,we hereby request the following measures to be incorporated into the

performance test methods for them:

1. NON-descriptive type of question paper should be used to test the academic skills. (such as a combination of MCQ, match the following / fill up the blanks from given choices / map location, labeling the diagram, etc).
2. As about 30% of students with Autism are found to have any form of epilepsy (seizures, which can be related to their stress level), to reduce their stress level, the content of Math question paper should be reduced to 70% & the question paper should be more visual. Due to their language delay, lengthy word problems should be broken down to simple sentences.
3. An ADULT prompter, anyone who knows the child (such as teacher or sub teacher or counselor or special educator) should be present during testing, to read the questions, motivate & reinforce the student, instead of a junior scribe student.
4. They should be given an extra hour, little breaks in between and allowed the use of calculator.

In the absence of the above in exam accommodations, many talented and bright children in Autism spectrum discontinue their regular education and opt out to special education schools. Even if we try to test them with CCE method, we are unable to help them especially for their 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades, as we don't have the right to modify their question paper to non descriptive method, for their board exams.

**It is requested that necessary approvals be accorded to changes/amendments as recommended above and get incorporated into the exam accommodations at the earliest.**

This will provide the justice these children deserve and pave for a meaningful life to many capable children with Autism .

Thanking you!

Sincerely,

Name & signature:

Schools seal: