

## PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR PSYCHOLOGIST AND/OR DOCTOR

### **Most common reasons for denial of request for accommodations:**

1. Problems with the psychoeducational evaluation:
  - 1) evaluator used grade norms instead of age norms (or did not specify which norms were used);
  - 2) evaluation did not cover all areas that are required (i.e., social-emotional functioning was not assessed and ruled-out; no behavioral observations or background information provided; no processing measures administered);
  - 3) evaluator did not administer a comprehensive achievement battery, which should include both timed and untimed achievement tests in each academic area, and should include a measure of sustained timed reading comprehension if there is a recommendation for extra time due to slow reading rate;
  - 4) scoring errors;
  - 5) questions about the evaluator’s qualifications (especially true of master’s-level diagnosticians).
2. The application for accommodations is not complete:
  - 1) a psychoeducational evaluation was not administered (for LD/ADHD requests);
  - 2) background evidence is not provided (e.g., evidence of previous accommodations in college or SAT/ACT).
3. The evidence does not demonstrate a significant impairment in a major life activity as compared with the average person in the general population. This means a pattern of achievement test scores below the Average range (below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile).
4. There is evidence that the applicant has performed at least average compared with the general population without accommodations (regardless of where the person thinks s/he *should* have performed based on high intelligence, etc.).
5. Materials are out-of-date (i.e., the most recent psychoeducational evaluation is more than three years old).
6. An applicant with ADHD ordinarily takes medication to help manage the symptoms, but does not take it (or it is unclear if s/he took it) at the time of the psychoeducational evaluation, with no explanation offered as to why this was the case.

### **Most common reasons why, after a reconsideration (appeal), the application continues to be denied:**

1. The applicant does not provide new evidence such as additional testing, but instead has his/her doctors send in letters of appeal.
2. Further testing is done, but continues to show that the individual is not significantly impaired as compared with the average person in the general population.