



Parents' Associations of Community and Comprehensive Schools

16th May 2007

Ms Andrea Feeney, Secretary
Advisory Group on Reasonable Accommodations
State Examinations Commission
Cornamaddy
Athlone
Co. Westmeath

Dear Ms Feeney

Re: Reasonable Accommodations Submissions

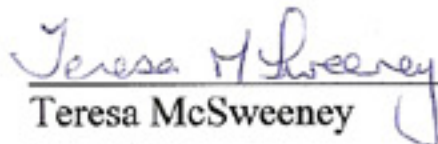
The Parents Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools (PACCS) would like to make the following submission in relation to Reasonable Accommodations in state examinations:-

- 1) That students who are eligible for reasonable accommodations in their state examination are given plenty of opportunities to practice which ever medium they are going to use e.g. reader and tape recorder or scribe in their in-house examinations and that measures are put in place in schools to facilitate this.
- 2) That students who have a reader have met and worked with the reader prior to the examination so that the student is comfortable with the reader and is used to that persons accent or style of reading. The aspect of accent is important as regional accents and pronunciations can cause difficulties for some students.
- 3) That a booklet be produced for parents explaining Reasonable Accommodations and how it operates for the student so that parents fully understand how the system works and why it may be necessary and helpful for their son/daughter.

- 4) That the practice of placing asterisk on the certificate of a student who has been granted reasonable accommodations be discontinued as the accommodations are supposed to level the playing field and allow the student show his/her capabilities not highlight their disability.

Trusting that these points will be considered.

Yours faithfully



Teresa McSweeney
Hon. Sec.