

# WAA-SwD Manipulatives Guide

For the purposes of this assessment, a *manipulative* is defined as a tangible object that is handled by a student or teacher to allow the student to engage with the content of a test question. Please note that the use of manipulatives is optional and not a requirement for this test (except the use of a ruler in grade 10 mathematics).

It is imperative to review the WAA-SwD test prior to test administration to determine appropriate manipulatives that may be used for your students. This decision process should be an item-by-item decision made for each individual student. Manipulatives should be the same as what the student uses in their daily instruction and must not change what the test item is measuring.

- For example, a pattern item indicates circles and squares of the same color. The use of balls and blocks that are different colors (e.g., green ball, red block) will change what is being measured. What was a shape pattern is now a shape and color pattern; however, using objects that are the same color would be acceptable.

<b>Examples of Manipulatives</b> Please note that this list is not exhaustive.	
Allowable	Not Allowable
<p>For money problems, use of real money or play money in place of pictures</p> <p>For computation problems, counting discs or blocks of a single color</p> <p>For all subject areas, Picture Exchange Communication (PEC) symbols</p>	<p>Coin-u-lators or money that incorporates touch points (items that define the money value)</p> <p>Multiplication tables or Calculators</p> <p>Any manipulative that changes what the item is intended to measure (see pattern example above) or that cues an answer choice</p>

Accommodations that may be provided for the WKCE may also be provided for students taking the WAA-SwD. The assessment matrix can be found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/pdf/accom09.pdf>

The WAA-SwD FAQ offers more guidance regarding specific testing situations and circumstances. This form can be located at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/faqwaa.html>

For more information regarding specific use of manipulatives, please contact [kristen.kehoe@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:kristen.kehoe@dpi.wi.gov).