

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR EXHIBITORS UNDER THE ADA

The Delaware State Fair, Inc. exhibitor program (i.e. livestock, competitive exhibits and contests) shall be accessible to the wide diversity of youth who live in our region, regardless of their backgrounds and characteristics — including physical, mental or emotional abilities and/or limitations.

Exhibitors with disabilities are entitled to be able to participate in the activities with their peers and any necessary accommodations must be made to make that possible. Any accommodation for an exhibitor with a disability should:

1. Allow an exhibitor with a disability to participate in the same collective activity as all other exhibitors at the same age level. Observation of the activity without direct involvement does not constitute participation.
2. Be determined with a stated goal to minimize direct adverse impact on how other participants in the activity perform or are evaluated. Every effort should be made to minimize the effects of the accommodation on other participants.
3. Be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The assessment and determination of the level of accommodation(s) should include consultation with the exhibitor, the exhibitor's parents or guardian, activity leader such as a Youth Program Advisor or Field Specialist, and a Fair program representative. Consultation with vocational rehabilitation professionals or professionals who teach or provide services to the exhibitor with the disability is also a preferred level of interaction to determine appropriate and reasonable accommodations.
4. Be reasonable. Accommodations are considered reasonable if they do not change the fundamental nature of the program or alter the essential criteria for participation. If an accommodation does not alter the fundamental nature of the program, then it is reasonable and will be provided. Exhibitors with disabilities will be judged using the same criteria as other participants. The accommodation should allow them to participate in the activity and achieve the criteria while not counting against the final determination of success.

Examples of possible accommodations include modifying rules, policies or timing of events; eliminating architectural or physical barriers; providing interpreters; modifying equipment; providing additional spacing needs; providing verbal or modified testing; allowing the use of digital technology (e.g. letter boards, text-to-speech programs or appropriate applications); or other types of accommodations as deemed appropriate.

The Delaware State Fair, Inc. respects the privacy of the individual participant. Information regarding an exhibitor's request for accommodation is extremely confidential. Any information that is gathered in order to assist the exhibitor in order to accomplish the goal of full program participation with accommodation will be used only for that purpose.