
From: CalTAC <CalTAC@info.ets.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 11:29 AM
To:
Subject: CAASPP Advisory--Expiration of the NeoSpeech Voice Packs Licenses in May 2020



Measuring the Power of Learning.™

Dear LEA CAASPP Coordinator or CAASPP Technology Coordinator:

The current license agreement between ReadSpeaker (formerly NeoSpeech) and the CAASPP System for the Julie and Violeta voice packs will expire permanently on May 29, 2020.

The Julie voice pack is used to provide text-to-speech in English and the Violeta voice pack is used for Spanish for students taking CAASPP online assessments on Windows-based machines. The voice pack licenses were purchased and offered since 2013 as an alternative to the generally robotic voices provided by system manufacturers as their system defaults.

However, the system manufacturer voice packs have evolved substantially since 2013, to the point where the quality and performance of today's native operating system (OS) voice packs now rival—and in some cases, outperform—the Julie and Violeta products. Ultimately, native OS voices have caught up to the ReadSpeaker offering.

Local educational agencies with students currently using the Julie or Violeta voice pack will need to select a text-to-speech alternative for students who require this resource as an assigned designated support or accommodation after May 29, 2020. Alternative options include the voice pack provided by the manufacturer of the Windows-based testing device or a different voice pack compatible with the student's testing device.

Questions about text-to-speech and other topics regarding 2019–20 CAASPP administration should be directed to the California Technical Assistance Center by phone at 800-955-2954 or by email at caltac@ets.org.

Sincerely,

California Technical Assistance Center
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