

NIMAS

National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard

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Accessibility is required by law.

- Districts must provide alternate materials to students who are blind or who have print disabilities in a timely manner.
- To help districts comply with the law, IDEA 2004 established:
 - NIMAS (National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard)
 - NIMAC (National Instructional Materials Access Center)

How does this involve technology directors?

- NIMAS involves technology, so you may receive questions from educators.
- Technology may be required to access and use NIMAS materials, so you may be asked for help.
- NIMAS is part of the larger effort to help improve learning for ALL students.

NIMAS involves a team effort.

- Superintendent decides to participate.
- Curriculum people select textbooks.
- Business office includes NIMAS in purchasing contracts with publishers.
- Educators determine student needs, as part of the IEP process.
- SPED staff or teachers access materials.
- Technology specialists provide support for technology.

Behind the scenes. . .

- Publishers prepare NIMAS file sets for all new textbooks.
- Publishers send the files to the NIMAC when a district includes it in a purchasing contract.
- Service providers access the files, create student-ready versions, and make them available.
- When a student needs an alternate format, the school gets it from a service provider.

How do districts access materials?

- District documents a student's eligibility and need for an accessible book.
- District contacts service provider (often done online):
 - [Massachusetts AIM Library](#) (braille and large print)
 - [Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic](#) (audio)
 - [Bookshare](#) (digital text)
- Service provider accesses file from the NIMAC, produces accessible book, and then either
 - delivers it to district OR
 - makes it available for download.

What books are available?

- Elementary and secondary CORE instructional and related materials
- Books published August 19, 2006 or later
- Books purchased after Dec. 3, 2006
- Books purchased with contracts that include NIMAS language

What about materials not available through the NIMAC?

- Districts can continue to provide accessible materials as they have done in the past (often by scanning books).
- Service providers ([AIM Library](#), [RFB&D](#), [Bookshare](#)) may be able to provide materials.
- Districts may be able to obtain or purchase files directly from publishers.
- ESE's [NIMAS](#) web page has links to help districts locate materials.

What if a student is not eligible?

- NIMAS relies on an exemption to Copyright Law, so there are strict requirements for student eligibility.
- Districts may be able to access online versions of books or purchase digital files directly from publishers.
- Districts may be able to find files online (especially works in the public domain).
- Districts can scan materials (need to observe Copyright Law, following guidelines for Fair Use).

What can you do to help?

- Share information with your district's "team."
 - Whenever new textbooks are purchased, the purchasing agreement should require the publisher to send files to the NIMAC.
 - Resources are available to help districts.
- Be available to provide technical support.

Professional Development

- Massachusetts is part of the 15-state AIM Consortium organized by CAST, which received an 18-month federal grant to better implement NIMAS.
- The AIM Consortium allows us to collaborate with CAST and 14 other states to identify best practices.
- Funding from the AIM Consortium allows us to provide professional development to educators:
 - Summer institutes in 2008
 - Online courses in 2009

For more information:

- ESE's NIMAS information page
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/edtech/assistive/nimas.html>
- ESE's Educational Technology page
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/edtech/>