

Obtaining Alternate Format Textbooks and Core Instructional Materials for Students with Print Disabilities

The U. S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), has established a National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) located at the American Printing House for the Blind. NIMAC is a national repository of National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) source files provided by textbook publishers. The goal of NIMAS is to promote the development of high quality, consistent source files for use in creating specialized formats for students with print disabilities. Specialized formats or accessible materials mean braille, audio, digital or electronic text and large print. NIMAS establishes the standard which publishers must follow when producing accessible files to be included in NIMAC. The NIMAS files are provided for the sole, express purpose of producing student-ready instructional materials for elementary and secondary school students who are blind, visually impaired or print disabled as stipulated in IDEA of 2004 Part D section 674(e)(3).

Students with disabilities often do not have timely access to textbooks and other curricular material. The NIMAS will streamline the provision of accessible materials, creating equal opportunities for students' participation and progress in the general curriculum. The Alabama Instructional Resource Center (AIRC) is the state designated authorized representative and will be responsible for obtaining the NIMAS files from NIMAC. The NIMAS source files are not in a student ready format; therefore the responsibility of converting the files into a specialized format will be the responsibility of the AIRC. Contact Teresa Lacy, Director of the Alabama Instructional Resource Center, to coordinate services for eligible students in your local education agency. To learn more about NIMAC, go to www.nimac.us.

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