


Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) and NIMAS*

What AIM Means for Principals and School Administrators

*National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard Wyoming Institute for Disabilities
University of Wyoming



AIM/NIMAS is an IDEA Part B Federal Regulation Requirement

1. Provides definitions related to purchase of and access to instructional materials
2. Requires adoption of NIMAS
3. Establishes SEA rights and responsibilities
4. Establishes requirements for the preparation and delivery of files
5. Requires collaboration with State agencies providing assistive technology programs
6. Establishes responsibilities of LEAs for purchase of instructional materials

Essential Points of IDEA Regulations


Provides definitions related to purchase of and access to instructional materials

1. NIMAS
2. Specialized Formats
3. Print Instructional Materials
4. Blind Persons or Other Persons with Print Disabilities

Essential Points of IDEA Regulations and the Provision of FAPE

Requires the Adoption of NIMAS - States must:

1. Provide instructional materials to blind persons or other persons with print disabilities in a timely manner
2. Establish a State definition of "timely manner"




Essential Points of IDEA Regulations

Establishes SEA Rights and Responsibilities

Must ensure:

- That children with disabilities who need instructional materials in accessible formats (altformat) are provided those materials in a timely manner.
- That all public agencies take all reasonable steps to provide altformat materials at the same time as other children receive instructional materials.




Essential Points of IDEA Regulations

Establishes Requirements for the Preparation and Delivery of Files - LEA must:

Enter into a written contract with publishers:

- That requires publishers to prepare and provide to NIMAS compliant files as part of the purchase contract
- To purchase materials that are produced in or can be rendered in specialized formats


Provide instructional materials to eligible students in a timely manner



Essential Points of IDEA Regulations

Requires collaboration with State agencies providing assistive technology programs

WIND Assistive Technology Resources




Essential Points of IDEA Regulations

Establishes responsibilities for LEAs for purchase of instructional materials


The LEA is responsible to ensure that children with disabilities who need instructional materials in an accessible format receive those materials in a timely manner, and at the same time as their non-disabled peers.

1. Purchase from publisher or acquire from repositories (BookShare, RFB&D)
2. Coordinate with AIM/NIMAS to acquire materials in a specialized format



NIMAS

National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard



2004 Reauthorization of IDEA

A technical publishing standard (ANSI/NISO Z39.86)

NIMAS applies to print instructional materials published *after* August 18, 2006. The purpose of the NIMAS is to help increase the availability and timely delivery of print instructional materials in accessible formats to blind or other persons with print disabilities in elementary and secondary schools.



What exactly is a NIMAS file?

- ✓ Digital, electronic
- ✓ Raw Source File (unable to be used in present form)
- ✓ Standard Contents:
 - ✓ .xml file
 - ✓ Images folder
 - ✓ .pdf title page & copyright info
 - ✓ .opf (the "coordinating agent")

What are "specialized formats?"

The most common:


- Braille
- Large Print
- eText
- Audio Files
- Tactile Graphics
- DAISY Books

Which "print instructional materials" must be provided in an alternate format?

Publishers: Only textbooks and resources that are considered "**core instructional materials**" and hold a copyright date from August 2006 forward must be provided to the NIMAC as NIMAS compliant files. Source files of older versions of textbooks are not required of publishers - not a retroactive mandate.

LEAs: Textbooks and related materials



Who are "Blind Persons or Other Persons with Print Disabilities"

- ✓ Blind
- ✓ Low Vision
- ✓ Physically unable to manipulate books
- ✓ Learning disability due to organic dysfunction
 - unable to gain meaning from print
 - unable to decode or comprehend print

How does the provision of AIM relate to accommodations & achievement?

The use of accessible instructional materials support

- ✓ Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- ✓ Differentiated Instruction
- ✓ Response to Intervention (RtI)

Assistive technologies that read, display or support literacy initiatives are accommodations required by students to meet their academic goals.

Key Players: NIMAC

National
Instructional
Materials
Access
Center



Central Repository

American Printing House for the Blind
U.S. Department of Education
Association of American Publishers
Association of Educational Publishers
NIMAS Centers in Each State



WIND

Wyoming
INstitute for
Disabilities



University-Affiliated Program
Funded by the Administration on
Developmental Disabilities, US Dept of
Health and Human Services
University Center for Excellence in
Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)
Focus on teaching, research, and service

University of Wyoming



WAC

Wyoming
Accessibility
Center

Wyoming Accessibility Center

The result of an expanded reorganization to address and accommodate the growing access needs of Wyoming individuals with disabilities and those who serve them



WATR



WIND
Assistive
Technology
Resources

WATR's aim is to increase access to and acquisition of assistive technology in the areas of education, employment, community living, and IT/telecommunications.



WDE/SPU



Wyoming
Department of
Education
Special
Programs
Unit



WDE/SPU contracts with WIND to assist in the statewide implementation of AIM. Compliance is a requirement of IDEA 2004 and applies to Part B students with print disabilities.

How can I, as an administrator, support my teachers?

Provide professional development opportunities for teachers to learn how to implement AIM

- ✓ Device selection and operation
- ✓ Software selection and use
- ✓ Direct classroom implementation strategies

Provide financial resources to support AIM

- ✓ Teachers need to learn about the process, from identification of students to classroom integration
- ✓ Teachers need funding to acquire appropriate assistive technology devices and programs

Are my teachers providing AIM?

YES

- ✓ Are teachers current in their understanding of AIM and in the use of assistive technologies that support AIM?

NO

- ✓ Request training or send appropriate personnel to one of the AIM Regional Workshops

How can staff at the AIM/NIMAS Clearinghouse help my teachers?

- ✓ Assist in the identification of appropriate students
- ✓ Assist in the identification of the most appropriate alternate format
- ✓ Assist teachers in completing essential forms
- ✓ Coordinate acquisition and/or conversion of requested materials
- ✓ Work with WATR program to schedule technical assistance or fee-for-service consultations

Who can I call or contact for help?

The AIM/NIMAS Clearinghouse
(307) 766-5770

www.uwyo.edu/wind/nimas

Kathy McWhorter

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Barbara Locke

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(307) 349-3547

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(307) 857-9259

Where can I find the resources referenced in this presentation?

General website:

www.uwyo.edu/wind/nimas

More Specifically:

www.uwyo.edu/wind/nimas/printresources

www.uwyo.edu/wind/nimas/webresources

www.uwyo.edu/wind/nimas/forms