

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (I.D.E.I.A.) 2004 requires that School Administrative Units ensure that children with print disabilities who need instructional materials in specialized formats (Braille, Large Print, Audio or Digital text) receive them in a timely manner. The federal regulations (34 CFR 300.172) include several requirements. One requires School Administrative Units to decide each year whether or not to coordinate with the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC). Maine's Local Entitlement Application addresses this provision.

School Administrative Units (SAUs) **are strongly encouraged to Opt-In** to coordinate with the NIMAC. **Why?**

The NIMAC is a national repository of NIMAS source files deposited by textbook publishers which then can be converted into specialized formats (Braille, audio, large print, digital text) for use by students who are blind or other students with print disabilities. The purpose of this national Center is to expedite and expand access to print instructional materials for those K-12 students to ensure their access to the general curriculum in a timely manner.

1. There is **NO COST** for School Administrative Units to coordinate with the NIMAC.

Any SAU that chooses not to coordinate with the NIMAC (Opt-Out) still must assure that it will provide each K-12 student who requires print instructional materials in specialized formats in a timely manner.

2. **Choose to Opt- in** to coordinate with the NIMAC with a **Yes**

3. **If Yes, SAU purchase orders** or other procurement practices executed on or after December 3, 2006 for K-12 textbooks and other printed core materials **must include** a provision that requires the publisher to produce NIMAS files and send them to the NIMAC.

- Sample Language that could be used for textbook contracts or purchase orders:

By agreeing to deliver the materials marked with "NIMAS" on this contract or purchase order, the publisher agrees to prepare and submit, on or before \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ \*\* a NIMAS fileset to the NIMAC that complies with the terms and procedures set forth by the NIMAC. Should the vendor be a distributor of the materials and not the publisher, the distributor agrees to immediately notify the publisher of its obligation to submit NIMAS filesets of purchased products to the NIMAC. Files will be used for the production of alternate formats as permitted under the law for students with print disabilities.

\*\* If you need the text in September you would write a convenient date similar to

8-1-2010 , to assure that you can then access the materials well in advance of the first day they will be used.

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