

NIMAS and NIMAC Requirements

National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)

1. School Districts responsibility to adopt the NIMAS standard

Every state is required to adopt the NIMAS. NIMAS outlines a set of consistent and valid specifications for document source files created by K-12 publishers that can be used to create accessible specialized formats of print instructional materials. Materials covered by NIMAS include printed textbooks and printed core materials published primarily for use in elementary and secondary school instruction and that are required by the state or school district for use by students in the classroom.

School Districts responsibility to coordinate with the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center (NIMAC)

A. School Districts responsibility whether or not they choose to coordinate with National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center (NIMAC)

1. Assure that students who are blind or other students with print disabilities have access to accessible specialized formats (i.e. Braille, audio, digital text, large print) of print instructional materials in a timely manner. Timely manner means at the same time as all other students receive instructional materials.

It is vital that instructional materials are ordered from the publisher early so that the files are converted into specialized formats and delivered for the student before classes begin. In an extenuating circumstance (i.e. student transfers into the district mid year) the school district will provide an alternative accommodation until the appropriate specialized format arrives for the student's direct use.

B. School Districts responsibilities if they choose to coordinate with the NIMAC

1. Same as above

2. Include in all contracts or other procurement practices for textbooks and other printed core instructional materials a provision that requires the publisher to produce NIMAS files and send them to the NIMAC.

Or:

Purchase instructional materials directly from the publisher that are produced in, or may be rendered in, accessible specialized formats.

Sample Language for Purchase of Print Instructional Materials by School District

By agreeing to deliver the materials marked with "NIMAS" on this contract or purchase order (if not already done so), the publisher agrees to prepare and submit, within 30 days of receipt of this order, a NIMAS file set 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 file sets of the purchased products to the NIMAC. The files will be used for the production of specialized formats as permitted under the law for students are blind or other students with print disabilities.

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