

Explanation of State and Local Education Agency Participation in NIMAS

Each LEA is responsible for ensuring that each child who requires accessible instructional materials in an alternate format will receive them in a timely manner to allow the child to be involved in and make progress in the general curriculum.

In the recent reauthorization of IDEA 2004, Congress recognized a national need to increase the availability and timely delivery of print instructional materials in accessible formats for blind and other students with print disabilities in elementary and secondary schools. In order to address this need, Congress enacted the **National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)** as a standardized means for the preparation of electronic format for those materials. Curriculum materials covered by NIMAS include printed textbooks and printed core materials that are written and published primarily for use in elementary and secondary school instruction and are required by a State Educational Agency (SEA) or Local Educational Agency (LEA) for use by students in the classroom

Congress also established the **National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC)** as a central repository for print instructional materials that have been prepared in accordance with NIMAS. The NIMAC will have an automated system allowing publishers to deposit NIMAS files within the repository. The NIMAS files will be checked to confirm that they are valid NIMAS, and the files will be cataloged into a web-based database.

In keeping with the IDEA 2004 requirement that each state adopt the NIMAS, the Utah State Office Department of Special Education has done this. The state of Utah has also chosen to participate in the NIMAC. In addition, each SEA may choose to "opt-in" or "opt-out" of the NIMAC. LEAs have the option of participating in NIMAC or ensuring the provision of materials on its own. Without this participation, the State would not have access to the national repository of converted textbook files.

It is the recommendation of the Utah State Office Department of Special Education that districts choose to participate in NIMAC, a national repository of instructional materials in alternate formats, which will guarantee timely provision of materials to children. LEAs will process their instructional materials requests through the State's "authorized user" the Utah State Instructional Materials Access Center (USIMAC).