

Providing Access to Textbooks and Core Instructional Materials for Students with Print Disabilities

Comparison of IDEA 2004 and ARS 15-731, 32

NIMAS (National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard) means the standard established by the Secretary of Education to be used in the preparation of electronic files suitable and used solely for efficient conversion into specialized formats. The states must adopt the NIMAS.

The NIMAC (**N**ational **I**nstructional **M**aterials **A**ccess **C**enter) is a central repository established at the American Print House for the Blind (APH) to store and to maintain NIMAS file Sets. The State Education Agencies (SEAs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may choose to retrieve the NIMAS files from the NIMAC (opt in), or develop and use an alternate method (opt out) to provide NIMAS files to students with print disabilities for students who are blind or print disabled.
Note: in Arizona, LEAs are known as PEAs.

Topic	Federal Law Access to Instructional Materials IDEA 2004 300.172 http://idea.ed.gov	Arizona Law Accessibility to Textbooks and Instructional Material ARS 15-731, 32 http://www.azleg.gov/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp?Title=15
Specialized Formats	NIMAS files are not student ready and need to be converted to Braille, large text, audio or digital	Same
Effective date	August 18, 2006 for print instructional materials after August 18, 2006	Applies to newly adopted printed and non-printed instructional materials adopted after the 2005-2006 school year with an original copy right date 2004 or later.
Definition of timely manner	SEA (State Education Agency) defines timely manner but must take reasonable steps to provide materials at same time as other students receive instructional materials.	Timely manner means at the same time that printed and non printed instructional materials are distributed to other students.
Child with a Disability	Uses Library of Congress (Chafee Amendment) definition of blind persons or other persons with disabilities: a) visual acuity 20/200 or less in better eye, b) visual disability prevents reading standard printed material, c) unable to read or use standard print due to physical disability or d) reading disability due to organic cause preventing reading printed material in normal manner “Competent authority” makes determination. LEA must meet needs of all students with print disability (even students who do not qualify under Chafee Amendment or those who need materials that cannot be produced from NIMAS files).	Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or section 504 plans whose individualized education plan or section 504 plan requires the use of instructional materials in a specialized format. Note: AZ statute is clear that this is applicable to students with IEPs and 504 plans.
Core instructional materials	Core instructional materials used in LEA that were developed for elementary and secondary education	Same
Cost to LEA	Silent	Specifies without undue cost to LEA