

Access to Instructional Materials

It is the policy of Central Rivers AEA that all students with disabilities in the age range from birth to 21 years of age residing in this AEA, including children and youth attending private schools, who are in need of special education and related services are provided accessible texts and instructional materials at the same time as their non-disabled peers.

The State of Iowa has adopted the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) and agrees to coordinate with the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC), located at the American Printing House for the Blind, for the purposes of providing instructional materials and texts to students who are blind and visually impaired or other students with print disabilities in a timely manner (no later than December 3, 2006, two years after the passage of IDEA 2004). Students who are blind, have a vision impairment, have a physical disability, or who have a reading disability of a physical origin are entitled to services from the NIMAC and under the Chafee Amendment to the Copyright Act. The State has designated the Iowa Department for the Blind as the authorized user for accessing the NIMAC. The State may from time to time designate additional authorized users.

The State has defined 'timely manner' as "delivering those accessible instructional materials at the same time as other children receive instructional materials". If a student, with a disability who requires accessible texts and instructional materials, is not eligible for services from the NIMAC, that student still must receive accessible texts and materials at the same time as the student's non-disabled peers.

The production and delivery of accessible texts and instructional materials is a cooperative endeavor involving the state, area education agencies (AEAs), and local education agencies (LEAs). As part of the enactment of this policy the State of Iowa requires that LEAs, as part of any print instructional materials adoption process, procurement contract, or other practice or instrument used for purchase of print instructional materials, shall enter into a written contract with the publisher of the print instructional materials to-

- a. Require the publisher to prepare and, on or before delivery of the print instructional materials, provide to the National Instructional Materials Access Center electronic files containing the contents of the print instructional materials using the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard; or
- b. Purchase instructional materials from the publisher that are produced in, or may be rendered in, specialized formats.

Legal References

Federal Requirements:

20 USC 1412(a)(23) Access to instructional materials
20 USC 1413(a)(6) LEA acquisition of
accessible instructional materials

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