

# NIMAS / NIMAC

The National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (**NIMAS**) and the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center (**NIMAC**) are topics addressed by **IDEA 2004**. **NIMAS** and **NIMAC** were designed for the purpose of providing instructional materials to blind persons or other persons with print disabilities, in a **timely manner** (at the same time as children without disabilities receive their materials).



## States' Responsibilities

Adopt the **NIMAS**. **NIMAS** outlines a set of consistent and valid specifications/standards for document source files created by curriculum publishers or other content producers. These files can be used to create accessible specialized formats of print instructional 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 that are required by a school district for use by students in the classroom.



**NIMAC** has created a national repository of **NIMAS** source files that can be converted into formats accessible by students who are blind or have other print disabilities. Even though the Nebraska Department of Education (**NDE**) does not order textbooks for districts, choosing to participate in **NIMAC** will help districts acquire student-ready versions in a more timely and cost-efficient manner. We have the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (**NCECBVI**) in Nebraska City as the authorized user (**AU**) for the purpose of the coordination in Nebraska. Also, both Learning Ally and Bookshare are authorized users (**AU**) so districts can also go directly to them especially for children with other print disabilities.



### Districts' Responsibilities

Although participating in **NIMAC** is optional for school districts, every district is responsible for ensuring that each child who requires instructional materials in an alternate format will receive them in a **timely manner**. The **NDE** encourages districts to participate in **NIMAC** because this national effort to centralize the distribution of instructional materials in alternate formats will ensure the availability of such materials to students.

For districts that choose to participate in **NIMAC**, contracts with publishers executed on and after December 3, 2006, for textbooks and other printed core materials must include a provision requiring files in accordance to **NIMAS**. Curriculum publishers have been involved in discussions relating to **NIMAS** and are well aware of its requirements. Model contract language for a school district is included below:

"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 valid **NIMAS** fileset to the **NIMAC** that complies with the terms and procedures set forth by the **NIMAC** at the American Printing House for the Blind, Inc. (**APH**). 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 the 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. This is included on page \_ of \_ of this contract or purchase order."

It is our hope that the development of **NIMAS** and **NIMAC** will make this process more efficient and successful, allowing visually impaired students and print disability students in Nebraska to receive needed classroom materials at the same time as their non-disabled peers.

For questions regarding **NIMAS** and **NIMAC**, please contact Teresa Coonts at **NDE**, 402-595-1810, [teresa.coonts@nebraska.gov](mailto:teresa.coonts@nebraska.gov), and/or Sally Giittinger at **NCECBVI**, 402-873-5513, (800) 826-4355 or [sgiittin@esu4.net](mailto:sgiittin@esu4.net), and/or Susan Pope at **NCECBVI**, 402-873-5513, (800) 826-4355 or [spope@esu4.net](mailto:spope@esu4.net) .

For additional information on **NIMAS**, please refer to <http://nimas.cast.org> and concerning **NIMAC**, please refer to <http://nimac.us>.

## How This Works at the LOCAL School District



The IEP team documents the student's need for braille, large print, or audio in the IEP.



The district contacts the **Nebraska Instructional Resource Center (NIRC)** at NCECBVI for the requested book.



Ways NIRC will source your book request:

- 1) Loan from NIRC's inventory
  - 2) Borrow from another state
  - 3) Order from APH for Legally Blind
  - 4) Check availability of digital file
  - 5) Provide LEA with Source to purchase/access
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When purchasing a textbook, did your district include a provision requiring files in accordance to **NIMAS?**



If there is no NIMAS file set available, NIRC will request NIMAC make available the title requested. NIMAC will notify NIRC when a NIMAS file set has become available.



NIRC will check to see if the NIMAS fileset has been assigned to an Accessible Media Producer (AMP)-BookShare, APH, Learning Ally.



If it has been assigned to an AMP, NIRC will provide that agency's contact information to the local school district to make arrangements for purchase/access. Once a district receives a NIMAS file, it will need to be formatted for student use. Many NIMAS File Conversion Software Programs available at: [www.nimas.cast.org](http://www.nimas.cast.org).



If it has not yet been assigned to an AMP, the NIRC will request an AMP convert the NIMAS fileset to a specialized format and make available. When available, the school district may request the file.