NIMAS
An Introduction to the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard

Students with print disabilities, their families, and those who provide educational services to them are keenly aware of the complexities associated with the acquisition of specialized formats of textbooks and other core instructional materials. Historically, students who need textbooks in specialized formats do not receive them at the same time as their peers. Without timely access to these materials, students with print disabilities are significantly disadvantaged, particularly if the textbook is a core instructional material that is heavily relied upon resource for teaching and learning.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 04) requires states to address this difficulty by adopting a new file format known as the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS). NIMAS is a technical standard used by publishers to develop source files from which specialized formats (Braille, digital text, audio, and large print) can be rendered. With the implementation of NIMAS, the conversion process of print material to specialized format is streamlined.

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For more information... http://www.uvm.edu/~cdci/tripscy/ ... and click on AIM
Training and Resources for Interdisciplinary Professionals Serving Children & Youth
A collaborative effort of the Center on Disability and Community Inclusion, UVM & Vermont Department of Education
The IDEA law requires that printed textbooks and related core instructional materials be provided to students with print disabilities in specialized formats in a **timely manner**.

In Vermont, **timely manner** is defined as “at the same time other students receive their core instructional materials in print format.”

**Core instructional materials** are textbooks and related core materials published with texts that are primarily for use in elementary and secondary school instruction and are required by state or local education agencies for use by students in the classroom.

NIMAS source files of publishers’ textbooks and core instructional materials are electronically stored at the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC).

**Web Resources:**

- TRIPSCY at http://www.uvm.edu/~cdci/tripscy/
- NIMAS at CAST http://nimas.cast.org
- NIMAC http://www.nimac.us
- Bookshare: http://www.bookshare.org
- Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFBD): http://www.rfbd.org (membership required)