



AIM at a Glance

For students with sensory, physical, cognitive, or learning differences and their teachers, accessible instructional materials (AIM) may open doors to teaching and learning that ordinary print-based materials have closed. Accessible instructional materials or AIM are specialized formats of curricular content that can be used by and with students who are unable to read or use standard print materials. Specialized formats include braille, audio, large print, and digital text. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) includes a requirement that schools provide AIM in a timely manner to K–12 students who need them for participation and achievement.

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NIMAS at a Glance

The National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) is a technical standard established by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that was created to make it possible for students with print disabilities to receive learning materials in formats they need as quickly as possible. NIMAS source files are designed to be easily converted into specialized formats, including braille, audio, large print, and digital text.

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Our Partners

- U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
- American Foundation for the Blind
- PACER Center

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CAST is a nonprofit education research and development organization whose mission is to expand learning opportunities for all individuals, especially those with disabilities, through the research and development of innovative, technology-based educational resources and strategies.



NATIONAL CENTER ON ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

*Improving opportunities for students
with print-related disabilities*

AIM Center Services

The AIM Center serves as a resource for stakeholders, including state- and district-level educators, parents, publishers, conversion houses, accessible media producers, and others interested in learning more about and implementing AIM and NIMAS.

- **Knowledge Development:** Developing and sustaining a readily available base of information and tools to build the capacity of stakeholders to effectively implement the NIMAS and other sources of AIM.
- **Technical Assistance and Dissemination:** Providing stakeholders with expert technical assistance and customized “just-in-time” consultation on major issues relevant to the timely provision of AIM. An extensive menu of technical assistance resources is available on the aim.cast.org web site:
 - Teaching and Training Resources
 - Decision-Making Tools and Resources
 - Technologies for AIM and NIMAS
 - AIM Across the Curriculum
- **Leadership and Coordination Activities:** Collaborating with OSEP, AIM-related OSEP-funded projects, technical assistance and dissemination center networks, family centers, and post-secondary AIM providers to build capacity for and raise awareness about the timely provision and use of AIM to improve outcomes for students with print-related disabilities.

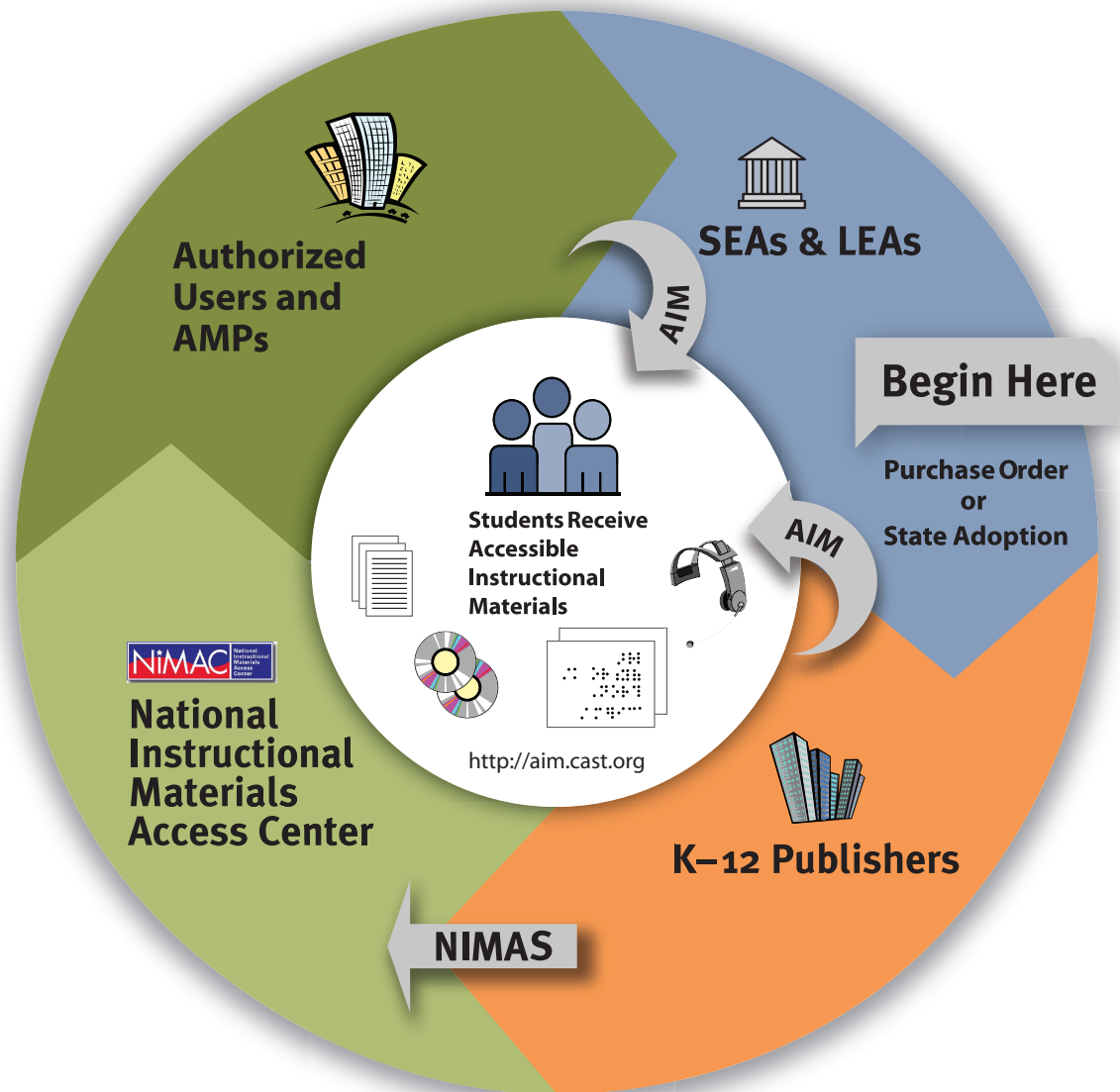
NIMAS Center Services

- Maintain and advance the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS), which guides the production of specialized format versions—braille, audio, large print, and digital text—of textbooks and related instructional materials.
- Convene the NIMAS Standards Board, representing accessible media producers, curriculum publishers, disability advocates, technology specialists, accessible media producers, and other invested stakeholders to ensure the NIMAS is continuously improved, so that it is and remains valid, comprehensive, practical, and widely adopted by states, publishers, and conversion houses.

References to NIMAS in IDEA

- Part B, Section 612 (a)(23)
- Part B, Section 613 (a)(6)
- Part D, Section 674 (e)
- Title III, Section 306

NIMAS/AIM Workflow



Not sure about terms? Visit our glossary at <http://aim.cast.org/glossary>

Want more information about this workflow graphic? Visit <http://aim.cast.org/learn/accessiblemedia/allaboutaim/how>



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