

Accessible Print for Eligible Students with Disabilities: NIMAS and NIMAC in New Jersey

Perkie B. Cannon

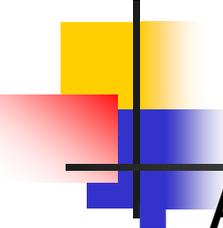
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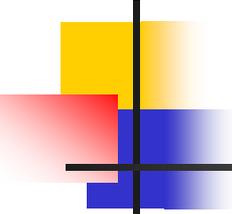
Workshop Objective

- To understand how Local Education Agencies (LEAs) can request NIMAS derived materials in the NIMAC to provide accessible print media to eligible students with disabilities as determined in their IEPs.



Agenda

- Accessible Formats and Assistive Technology
 - Review of NIMAS and NIMAC
 - New Jersey Department of Education participation
 - Local Education Agency (LEA) participation
 - Eligible Students
 - Eligible Materials
 - Authorized Users (AU's) for New Jersey
 - Accessible Media Producers (AMP's)
 - Steps to Access Materials in NIMAC
 - Resources



What are accessible formats of instructional material for blind and print disabled students?

- Braille
 - Embossed – hard copy, traditional book
 - Refreshable – computer-based, Refreshable Braille Displays
- Large Print
 - Hard-copy book
 - Electronic books
- Audio
 - Analog audio recording
 - Digital audio – currently used by National Library Service, Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, Bookshare.org, and others
- E-text/Digital text

Braille

Embossed Braille: hard copy,
traditional books



Braille from American
Printing House for the Blind
& Perkins APH-Braille

Refreshable Braille:
computer-based,
Refreshable Braille
Displays



Large Print

- Hard copy books
- Electronic textbooks



Magnifiers



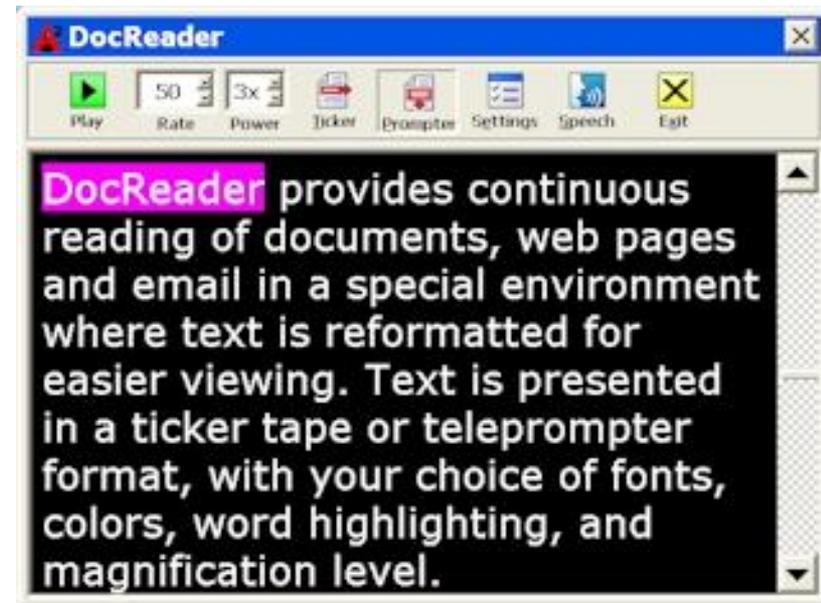
Closed Circuit
Television

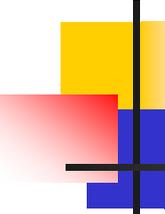
Audio and E-text

- Digital Talking Books (DTBs)
 - Software
 - Hardware
- E-text
 - Computer hardware
 - Computer software



Victor Reader Stream – RFB&D





What Assistive Technology (AT) device considerations are needed for these accessible formats of instructional materials?

Possible AT devices:

- Braille
 - Braille translation software for converting e-text into braille code
 - Braille display technology such as computer-based Refreshable Braille (e.g. Braille Notetakers)
 - Software player (e.g., gh Player – displays Digital Talking Books and supports Refreshable Braille Displays)
- Large Print
 - Low vision aids which may include magnifiers, Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTVs), computer screen magnification software
- Audio
 - Analog players
 - Digital Talking Books (DTBs) software and hardware
- E-text/Digital text
 - Computer or other hardware
 - Screen reading software



What AT service considerations are needed for these accessible formats of instructional materials?

- Potential AT services to support accessible formats may include:
 - Evaluation of the needs of the student for AT
 - Purchasing, leasing or otherwise providing for the acquisition of AT devices
 - Selecting, adapting, maintaining, repairing or replacing AT devices
 - Training or technical assistance for the student, appropriate school staff members, and, as needed, the family of the student

[N.J.A.C. 6A: 14 Appendix G 20 U.S.C. 1401(2)]



What is NIMAS?

- NIMAS is the acronym for the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard.
- NIMAS is a technical standard that outlines a set of consistent and valid source files that may be used to develop accessible specialized formats of print instructional files (e.g., braille, audio, digital, large-print).
- New Jersey adopted NIMAS.



What is the purpose of NIMAS?

- The purpose of NIMAS is to help increase the availability and timely delivery of print instructional materials in accessible formats to blind or other persons with print disabilities in elementary and secondary schools.
- NIMAS was established by IDEA 2004 and the final provisions were included in the Federal Register, July 19, 2006 (71 FR 41084).



What is the NIMAC?

- NIMAC is the acronym for National Instructional Materials Access Center.
- IDEA 2004, section 674(e), established the NIMAC as a national repository to collect and store NIMAS files.
- As of January, 2011, NIMAC has approximately 24,000 accepted NIMAS file sets available for download and conversion to student-ready specialized formats (e.g., braille, audio, large print, digital).



How is New Jersey participating?

- New Jersey adopted NIMAS.
- New Jersey has chosen to coordinate with NIMAC for the purpose of providing instructional materials in a timely manner to a blind person or other persons with print disabilities.

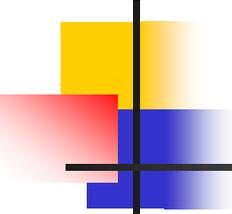
How is New Jersey participating?

- Instructional materials will be provided to blind or print-disabled students in a timely manner, consistent with a plan developed by the district. [N.J.A.C. 6A:14 –1.2(b)16]
 - Each LEA(Local Education Agency) is responsible for ensuring that each child with print disabilities will receive high quality accessible materials in a timely manner.
 - Assistive Technology (AT) devices and services to support accessible materials for students with print disabilities shall be considered. The LEA shall ensure that these AT devices and/or services are available to the student if required as part of the student's special education or supplementary aids and services,. [N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.7(c)9i]



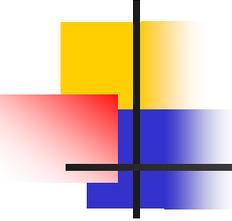
How may LEAs participate in NIMAC?

- Each LEA may choose to “opt in” or to “opt out” of the NIMAC.
- New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs is recommending that LEAs “opt in” to the NIMAC in order to guarantee timely provision of materials to children with print disabilities.



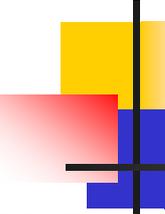
If an LEA “opts in” to the NIMAC

- The decision to “opt in” is noted in the LEA’s assurance as part of their EWEG application and provides assurance of a timely provision of materials to children with print disabilities.
- As of December 3, 2006, LEA contracts executed with publishers of textbooks and other printed core materials must include a provision that will require the publisher to produce files for transmission in the NIMAS standard to the NIMAC.



If an LEA “opts out” of the NIMAC

- The LEA shall provide an assurance to NJDOE that the LEA will provide instructional materials to blind persons or other persons with print disabilities in a timely manner.

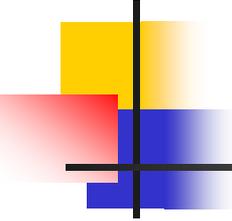


Who qualifies to receive NIMAS-derived accessible textbooks?

IDEA 2004 definition of students who may be provided with accessible textbooks created with NIMAS files from the NIMAC is as follows:

“Blind persons or other persons with print disabilities” as certified by a competent authority [34 CFR 300.172(e)(1)(i)] [20 U.S.C. 1474(e)(3)(A)] including

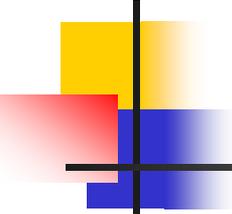
1. Blind persons whose visual acuity, as determined by a competent authority, is 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting glasses, or whose widest diameter if visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees
2. Persons whose visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, are certified by a competent authority as preventing the reading of standard printed material



Who qualifies to receive NIMAS- derived accessible textbooks? continued

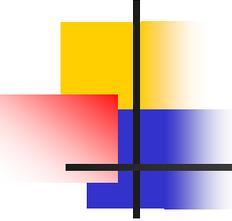
3. Persons certified by competent authority as unable to read or unable to use standard printed material as a result of a physical limitations
4. Persons certified by competent authority as having a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent their reading printed material in a normal manner as certified by a competent authority (defined as doctors of medicine)

Who qualifies to receive NIMAS-derived accessible textbooks? continued



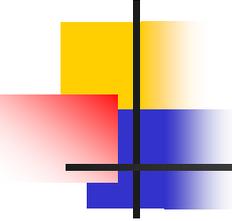
- **Competent authority for blindness, visual disability, or physical limitations** are doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, ophthalmologists, optometrists, registered nurses, therapists, and professional staff of hospitals, institutions, public or welfare agencies.
- **Competent authority for a reading disability from organic dysfunction** is defined as doctors of medicine who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.

[36 CFR 701.6(b)(2)]



What kind of documentation does the LEA maintain?

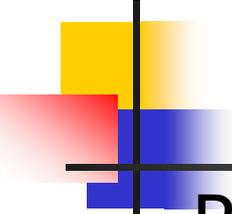
- LEAs maintain documentation of the eligibility of a student for NIMAS files.
- Documentation of eligibility becomes a part of the student's record and is confidential.



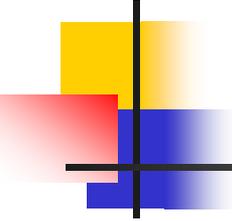
Which materials may be placed in NIMAS files by publishers?

- Textbook and related core materials published after August 18, 2006.
- Textbook is defined as the principal tool of instruction used in the classroom.

What are related core materials?

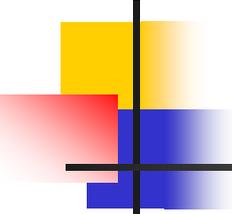


- Related core materials are defined as printed materials, other than textbooks, designed for use by students in the classroom in conjunction with a textbook and which, together with the textbook, are necessary to meet the curriculum requirements for the intended course.
- Related core materials do not include trade books that are not bundled with the textbook, newspapers, reference works, ancillary and supplemental materials.



What if additional materials are needed beyond NIMAS?

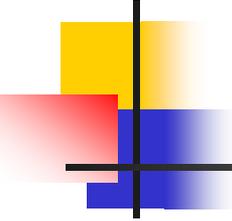
- Additional materials may be needed in a specialized format for a student with a print disability, but those materials will not be available in NIMAS format through the NIMAC (e.g., novels, reference materials, classroom tests, etc.).



What are the steps to consider specialized formats of print materials for NIMAS eligible students?

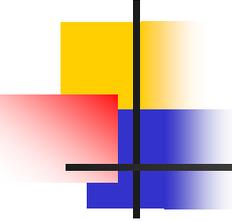
For **all NIMAS eligible** students:

- Determine the books/print materials needed.
 - Obtain print copies of these books as soon as it is determined the books will be needed by the student.
- For each subject area text/print material, determine the type of specialized print format needed by the eligible student (e.g. braille, large print, audio text, digital text).



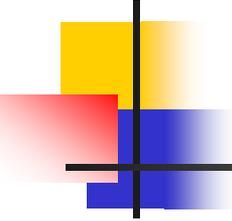
What should be documented in the IEP?

- The type of accessible format for print media, assistive technology devices and services required to support the accessible format, and student eligibility for NIMAS should be documented in the student's IEP.



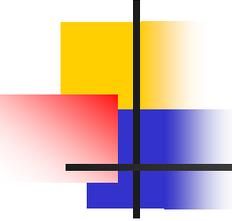
How are NIMAS file sets obtained from the NIMAC?

- Each state educational agency that coordinates with the NIMAC must designate Authorized User(s) to access files in the NIMAC.
- Only the Authorized User may download or assign NIMAS file sets for conversion to accessible materials.
- NIMAS file sets are not student-ready. They must be converted into a specialized format for student use.



What is the function of an Authorized User?

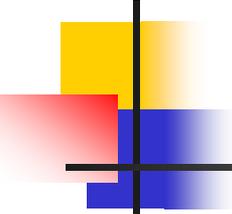
- The Authorized User may
 - Obtain files directly from the NIMAC for conversion to specialized format or
 - Authorize access to NIMAS files in the NIMAC for conversion to a specialized format by Accessible Media Producers (AMPs).



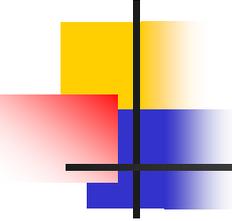
Who are Accessible Media Producers (AMPs)?

- AMPs convert NIMAS file sets into specialized formats (e.g., braille, audio, digital, large print).
 - Examples: Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic and Bookshare.org
- AMPs have signed agreements with NIMAC regarding use of the NIMAS file sets.
- AMPs cannot directly access NIMAS files in the NIMAC.

Who are the Authorized Users in New Jersey?

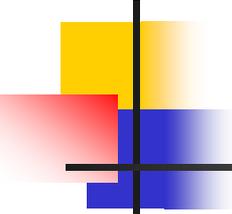


- For NIMAS eligible students who are blind and/or visually impaired: The Meyer Center of New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NJCBVI), Christine Hinton, christine.hinton@dhs.state.nj.us
- For NIMAS eligible students who are print disabled due to a physical disability or have a reading disability due to organic dysfunction: New Jersey Department of Education – OSEP representative, Perkie Cannon, perkie.cannon@doe.state.nj.us



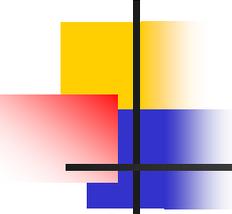
Steps for Accessing NIMAS files in the NIMAC by LEAs

1. Determine student eligibility to receive NIMAS materials.
 - Maintain documentation of eligibility.
2. Determine the books/print materials needed.
 - Obtain print copies of these books as soon as it is determined the books will be needed by the student.
3. For each subject area text/print material, determine the type of specialized print format needed by the eligible student (e.g., braille, audio, e-text/digital or large print).



Steps for Accessing NIMAS files in the NIMAC by LEAs (continued)

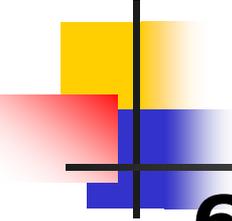
4. Determine assistive technology devices and services needed to support accessible media required by the student.
5. Reflect accessible format for print media, subject by subject, and assistive technology devices and services required to support the accessible format in the student's IEP.
6. Follow the steps noted for each Authorized User to obtain accessible formats for print materials:
 - a. For eligible students who are blind and visually impaired: New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NJCBVI)
 - b. For eligible students who are print disabled due to a physical disability or reading disability due to an organic dysfunction: New Jersey Department of Education-OSEP, Perkie Cannon



Steps for accessing NIMAS files in the NIMAC by LEAs for students who are blind and visually impaired (continued)

6A. For blind and visually impaired students, send requests to New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NJCBVI)

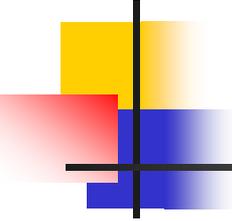
- Provide print copies of requested books as soon as possible to the NJCBVI's Education Counselor assigned to the student as soon as possible per NJCBVI procedures.
- NJCBVI will process the request and access NIMAC as needed.
- For information regarding services from NJCBVI, contact Amelia Ricciardi, Coordinator of Educational Services at 973-648-6292 or amelia.ricciardi@dhs.state.nj.us .
- For information regarding NIMAC requests, contact Christine Hinton, NIMAC Authorized User from NJCBVI at christine.hinton@dhs.state.nj.us .



Steps for accessing NIMAS files in the NIMAC by LEAs for students who have other print disabilities (continued)

6. B. For students who are print disabled due to physical limitation and/or organic dysfunction:

- LEAs check availability of the text at an Accessible Media Producer (e.g., Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic, Bookshare, etc.).
- If the book is **available** from the AMP, the LEA follows the procedures and registration process of the Accessible Media Producer to request materials in specialized format.



Steps for accessing NIMAS files in the NIMAC by LEAs for students who have other print disabilities (continued)

6. B.

- If the book is **not available from the AMP and is a NIMAS eligible text**, the LEA searches the National Instructional Materials Access Library (NIMAC)
<http://nimac.us> .



ENTER NIMAC REPOSITORY | APH NIMAC FAQ | CONTACT US | HOME

Authorized Users & State Coordinators | **Publishers & Conversion Houses** | **Accessible Media Producers (AMPs)** | **Teachers, Parents, Students**

enter
NIMAC REPOSITORY

Welcome to the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC)

News and Updates!

- New! January 2011 NIMAC Update presented to the NIMAS Standard Board
- Spring 2010 NIMAC Update Presented to EPAC (APH Educational Products Advisory Committee)

**Want to report a problem with a file?
Click here!**

QUICK QUESTIONS!

What is the NIMAC?

We are a federally-funded, national electronic file repository that makes National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) files available for the production of core print instructional materials in specialized formats. Created under IDEA 2004, the NIMAC receives source files in NIMAS format from textbook publishers, and makes these files available for download to Authorized Users in the United States and its territories through an online database. Once downloaded, files can be used to create a variety of specialized formats, such as braille, audio, or digital text, on behalf of qualifying blind, visually-impaired or print-disabled students in elementary or secondary school.

What does "NIMAS" format mean?

NIMAS is the only format we receive. It is an XMI -based source file format that is not

Internet Explorer browser interface showing the address bar with <http://nimac.privatereserve.com/>, menu options (File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, Help), search bar, and various toolbars including Favorites, Suggested Sites, Free Hotmail, and Web Slice Gallery.



Welcome to the NIMAC!

[Search the NIMAC.](#)

[Register as an accessible media producer.](#)

[Click here for more information.](#)

If you have a login and password, [click here](#) to enter the NIMAC.

Important News Update: We are pleased to announce that the NIMAC system now supports a variety of Web Browser and Operating System configurations! You no longer need to use IE or Windows to access the system.

Search the NIMAC

Please enter your search criteria in the form below and click 'Search'.

Title:	<input type="text" value="Delmar's Standard Textbook of Electricity"/>
Author/Editor/Illustrator:	<input type="text"/>
Publisher:	<input type="text"/>
Identifier:	<input type="text"/>
ISBN:	<input type="text" value="9781418065805"/>
Series:	<input type="text"/>
Content Type:	<input type="text"/>
Language(s):	<input type="text" value="English"/> <input type="text" value="French"/> <input type="text" value="German"/> <input type="text" value="Italian"/>
Subject(s):	<input type="text" value="Accounting"/> <input type="text" value="Agriculture"/> <input type="text" value="Algebra"/> <input type="text" value="Anatomy"/>
State Edition:	<input type="text"/>
Numeric Edition:	<input type="text"/>
Grade Level:	<input type="text" value="Grade 1"/> <input type="text" value="Grade 2"/> <input type="text" value="Grade 3"/> <input type="text" value="Grade 4"/>

http://nimac.privatereserve.com/SearchResults.aspx

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Search Web

Anti-Spy Choose Buttons Mail My Yahoo! Bookmarks

Suggested Sites Free Hotmail Web Slice Gallery

NIMAC - Search the NIMAC - Search Results

Page Safety Tools



Search the NIMAC

Sort result by:

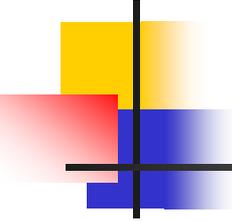
[Start a new search.](#)

[Return to the NIMAC Repository home page.](#)

Total records: 1

Title: Delmar's Standard Textbook of Electricity
Identifier: 1418065803NIMAS
Author: Stephen L. Herman
Publisher: Cengage Learning Delmar
State Edition: National
Grade Level: Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12, Grade 9
ISBN: 1418065803, 9781418065805
File Size: 69.09 MB

[Click here to see the full record display for *Delmar's Standard Textbook of Electricity*](#)



Steps for accessing NIMAS files in the NIMAC by LEAs for students who have other print disabilities (continued)

6. b

- If the book is available at the NIMAC, the LEA completes a **NIMAS request form** and submits to NJDOE-OSEP Authorized User.
- The Authorizer User will assign the book to the accessible media producer (AMP) that the LEA requested.
 - In order for the book to be processed by an AMP, the LEA must have registered the student with an AMP(e.g., Bookshare.org, RFB&D, etc.).

**NIMAS Request Form to New Jersey Authorized User for
NIMAS Eligible Students with Other Print Disabilities**

Student: _____ **Date of Request:** _____ **School Year:-** _____

School District: _____ **School:** _____

Address: _____

Contact Person (name/position): _____

Phone Number: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Assign book(s) to the following Accessible Media Producer (AMP): _____

Student or School AMP membership/account number: _____

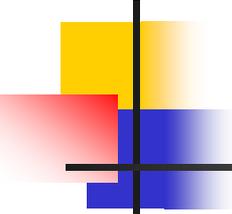
Title of Book	ISBN#	Author	Publisher	Copyright Date	Grade Level	Accessible Media (audio or digital)

By requesting assignment of a NIMAS file set, our district/school assures that the student receiving the material has a documented print disability and meets the eligibility requirements for receiving NIMAS file sets. Copyright law strictly prohibits copying, sharing or redistributing NIMAS file sets in any form to any person.

Signature _____ **Title** _____ **Date** _____

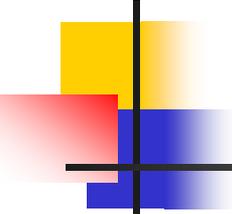
Please mail or fax the completed form to: Perkie Cannon, New Jersey Department of Education, Learning Resource Center – NS, 104 American Road, Morris Plains, NJ 07950

Fax: (973) 631-6350



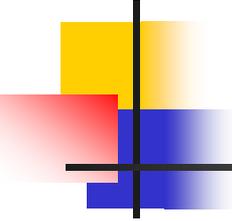
Steps for accessing NIMAS files in the NIMAC by LEAs for students who have other print disabilities (continued)

7. If the text or related core material is not available in the NIMAC, the LEA will complete the following:
 - a) The school district reviews their contract with publisher.
 - If needed, incorporate new contract language into the purchase order for placement of file sets into NIMAS format and those NIMAS file sets are then forwarded to the NIMAC by the publisher.
 - If the contract contained language requiring the placement of file set into NIMAS format, request that the file set for that text is forwarded to the NIMAC.
 - Check the NIMAC to determine file set has been received.
 - Follow steps for request from appropriate authorized user.



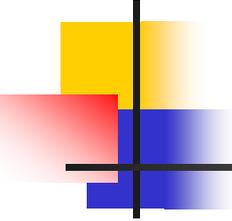
Steps for accessing NIMAS files in the NIMAC by LEAs for students who have other print disabilities (continued)

7. If the text or related core material is not available in the NIMAC, the LEA will complete the following:
 - b) If the book is not sent to the NIMAC in NIMAS format after following the above steps, follow the procedures of NJCBVI, RFB&D, Bookshare or other Accessible Media Producers for placing print texts into specialized formats.



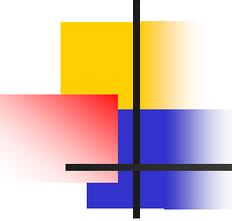
Steps for Accessing NIMAS files in the NIMAC by LEAs (continued)

- 8.** Specialized format material is delivered to the student at the school district through NJCBVI or an Accessible Media Producer.



Can students directly receive NIMAS file sets?

- Students may not directly receive NIMAS files because they are source files and not in an accessible format.
- NIMAS file sets may be converted into the appropriate accessible format by an accessible media producer (AMP) in order to be used by an eligible student.

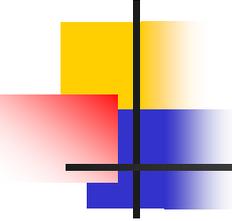


What is the cost of NIMAC?

- **There is no cost for the following:**
 - LEAs requesting publishers to send NIMAS file sets to the NIMAC
 - Publishers sending NIMAS file sets to the NIMAC
 - Authorized User downloading NIMAS file sets from the NIMAC

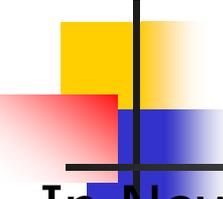
Costs to the Requestor:

- Other costs may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Conversion of the NIMAS file set into the appropriate specialized format
 - Assistive technology devices and services
 - Print copies of the textbooks and related core materials for each student



Additional Information

- NIMAC: <http://nimac.us>
- NIMAS and AIM: <http://aim.cast.org/>
- NJDOE-OSEP NIMAS-NIMAC memo:
<http://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/memos/nimas1.pdf>
- Perkie Cannon, New Jersey NIMAC State Coordinator (973) 631-6345 or perkie.cannon@doe.state.nj.us



Assistive Technology (AT) Resources

In New Jersey

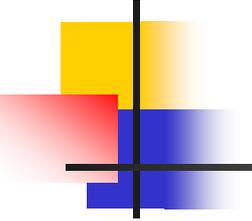
- Assistive Technology Advocacy Center of Disability Rights New Jersey (ATAC): www.drnj.org/atac
- CARTWHEEL: Directory of AT Services in New Jersey - New Jersey Coalition for the Advancement of Rehabilitation Technology (NJCART) www.njcart.org

In the Nation

- Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America: www.resna.org
- Abledata: www.abledata.com
- Alliance for Technology Access (ATA): www.ataccess.org
- Assistive Technology Industry Association: www.atia.org
- Closing the Gap: www.closingthegap.com

Websites for Accessible Media Producers of Audio & E-text/Digital Text

- Bookshare – www.bookshare.org
- Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic – www.rfbd.org
- New Jersey Alternate Format Center -
<http://www.njaltformat.org>
- AHEAD - <http://www.ahead.org/resources/e-text>
- Cambium Learning, Inc. – www.cambiumlearning.com
- Colligo Corp – www.colligo.us
- Digilife Media, LLC – www.digiligemedia.biz
- TechAdapt, Inc. – www.techadapt.com
- Dolphin Press – www.dolphinpress.biz



Websites for Accessible Media Producers of Audio & E-text/Digital Text (continued)

- BookCode, Corp. – www.DigitalMediaInitiatives.com
- LAPIZ Digital Services – www.LAPIZPUBLISHING.com
- Panright Productions – www.panright.com
- ReadHowYouWant – www.readhowyouwant.com
- BookCode, Corp. -
<http://www.DigitalMediaInitiatives.com>
- gh LLC – www.gh-accessibility.com
- Group A consultants – www.gac-media.com