

The National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard NIMAS

The NIMAS was established so that students who are print disabled may receive their core instructional materials in a “timely manner” which means:

“The SEA and the LEAs must take reasonable steps to provide instructional materials in accessible formats to students with disabilities who need those instructional materials at the same time as other students receive instructional materials.”

(§300.210)

The National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard is based on the international DAISY standard. This standard makes it possible for all producers of alternate formats for students with print disabilities to work from one standard available from publishers for this purpose. NIMAS outlines a set of consistent and valid XML-based source files created by K-12 curriculum publishers or other content producers. These well-structured source files can be used to create accessible specialized formats: Braille, large print, audio and digital (e-text).

The core materials for students with print disabilities means printed textbooks and related printed core materials that are written and published primarily for use in elementary and secondary schools instructional materials and are required by the state educational agency or local educational agency for use by students in the classroom.