



NATIONAL CENTER ON ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

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AIM Center Connections

Families, educators, and others who provide supports to students often have concerns and questions about "accessible instructional materials": what they are, if they're needed, what is needed, where to get them and how to use them! Since these questions involve both accessible content and widely usable delivery system (e.g. assistive technology), the AIM Center has identified some resources of special interest and made them available in a use-friendly Q&A format. We invite you to explore and share these resources and to contact us any time at <http://aim@cast.org> for assistance.

Where can I go for a quick introduction to accessible instructional materials?

- **AIM Basics for Families (2011):**

This booklet, available in English and Spanish, will help Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams decide whether a student needs AIM, what type of specialized format the student needs, how to access the materials for the student, and what supports the student needs to use AIM.

http://aim.cast.org/learn/aim4families/aim_basics_families

- **AIM: A Technical Guide for Families and Advocates (2011):**

This guide includes background information on AIM provisions in IDEA, definitions of terms, a thorough description of the decision making process for AIM, and where to find additional resources.

http://aim.cast.org/learn/aim4families/aim_families_advocates

- **AIMing for Achievement Series:**

What Educators and Families Need to Know about Accessible Instructional Materials? This series of articles originally published in *Closing the Gap Solutions* addresses the complexities, challenges, and opportunities related to the provision of accessible instructional materials.

<http://aim.cast.org/learn/accessiblemedia/allaboutaim/aimbasics>

Is there anything available to help IEP Teams and other teams make thoughtful decisions about AIM?

- Check out the AIM Navigator, an online decision-making tool. The AIM Navigator facilitates a 4-step process of decision-making around accessible instructional materials for an individual student. Guiding questions, resources and scaffolds of support are built in to provide access to information at the level needed to assist the team in making informed, accurate decisions.

<http://aim.cast.org/navigator/page/>

What do purchasers of educational materials need to know about accessibility?

- Check out the PALM Initiative (Purchase Accessible Learning Materials) to learn about the PALM Initiative and find supporting documents and presentation materials on accessibility issues with digital learning materials.
<http://aim.cast.org/learn/practice/palm>
- Read AIMing for Digital Equity by Bowser and Zabala, reprinted with permission from the International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE) at
http://aim.cast.org/learn/practice/digital_equity

How can students and families get accessible books for students to read for pleasure?

- If a student meets the criteria for membership, sign up for individual accounts at two major libraries of accessible media, Bookshare (<http://www.bookshare.org>) and Learning Ally (<http://www.learningally.org>) two major libraries of accessible media.

Who can be contacted for more information?

- For textbooks and other educational materials, a student's IEP team coordinator would be an important place to begin. The district's Director of Special Education can be of assistance.
- For contact information for any state's AIM Coordinator and additional information about the state, see the list of states located at
http://aim.cast.org/learn/policy/state/nimas_nimac_contacts

How can we learn more and stay up to date about AIM?

- Attend AIM Center webinars and presentations.
- Visit the AIM Center Web site. On the AIM home page; sign up to receive the AIM Connector e-newsletter.
- Contact the AIM Center via email to aim@cast.org