

DEFINITIONS OF WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE
NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ACCESS CENTER (NIMAC)
AND
NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD
(NIMAS)

Accessibility

American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)

Accessible Media Producers (AMPs)

Blind or Other Persons with Print Disabilities

Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST)

Core Student Record System (CSRS)

Core Materials

Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Instructional Resource Center (IRC)

Local Education Agency (LEA)

Least Restrict Environment (LRE)

National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC)

National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Special Education Technology Center (SETC)

State Education Agency (SEA)

Washington Administrative Code (WAC)

Washington Technical Assistance Program (WATAP)

Accessibility

In the context of technology, accessibility most commonly refers to providing access for all people to web environments, including people with disabilities. Designing sites for the way the screen readers, text browsers, and other adaptive technologies interact with the web; choosing contrasting colors for readability, and providing alternative text tags for graphics are examples of making web sites more accessible.

American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) is a non-profit organization that expands possibilities for people with visual impairments. AFB has been advocating for the rights of people who are blind or visually impaired for more than 80 years.

<http://www.afb.org/>

Accessible Media Producers (AMPs)

Accessible media producers (AMPs) produce Braille, audio, digital text, or large print formats of print instructional materials exclusively for use by blind or other persons with print disabilities. Accessible media producers are eligible to download files directly from the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center (NIMAC) as agents of authorized users.

Blind or Other Persons with Print Disabilities

The definition used within the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) is – “Blind or other persons with print disabilities,” which means children served under IDEA and who may qualify in accordance with the act entitled “An Act to Provide Books for the Adult Blind,” approved March 31, 1931 (2 U.S.C. 135a; 46 Stat. 1487) to receive books and other publications produced in specialized formats.” This means that eligible students must qualify under both IDEA and the 1931 Act, which is administered by the Library of Congress.

<http://nimas.cast.org/about/idea2004/index.html>

<http://www.loc.gov/nls/act1931.html>

Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST)

The Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) is a nonprofit organization that works to expand learning opportunities for all individuals, especially those with disabilities, through the research and development of innovative, technology-based educational resources and strategies. The National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) Development and Technical Assistance centers are housed at CAST in Wakefield, MA.

<http://www.cast.org/>

Core Student Record System (CSRS)

The core student record system (CSRS) is a state student ID. Student demographic information is collected to report Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results. It also facilitates the process of information and paperwork between districts when a student transfers from one district to another in Washington State.

Core Materials

Core materials are textbooks and printed materials in the curricula written and published primarily for use in elementary and secondary school instruction.

Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

Special education and related services provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without charge mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Recently reauthorized as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act in 2004, IDEA is a federal law governing the rights of children with disabilities to receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in what is termed a least restrictive environment (LRE).

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea2004.html>

Instructional Resource Center (IRC)

The Instructional Resource Center (IRC) located at the Washington State School for the Blind is an authorized user to serve as an agent to access the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) database in order to download National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)-conformant files. The IRC is funded by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to support Local Education Agencies' (LEAs') effort in acquiring appropriate textbooks and materials need for eligible students.

<http://www.wsd.wa.gov>

Local Education Agency (LEA)

A local education agency (LEA) is a public board of education or other public entity legally authorized for either administrative control or direction of publicly funded schools, including school corporations and stage-operated schools.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

A least restrictive environment (LRE) refers to educational settings and means, in effect, that each identified child eligible for special education services, to the maximum extent possible, shall be educated with children who are not disabled.

National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC)

The National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) is a central national repository established at the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) to store and to maintain NIMAS file sets. It features an automated system for allowing publishers to deposit NIMAS-conformant files within the repository. Files are checked to confirm that they are valid NIMAS-conformant files and then cataloged in a web-based database. Those who have been authorized for access have user identifications and passwords. These authorized users may search the NIMAC database and directly download the file(s) they need to convert into accessible instructional materials for those students who are in elementary and secondary schools and have qualifying disabilities.

<http://www.nimac.us/>

National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)

National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) refers to a collection of consistent and valid XML-based source files created by k-12 curriculum publishers. From these well-structured source files, accessible, student-ready alternate-format versions of textbooks and core materials (e.g., Braille, e-text, Digital Talking Book, etc.) can subsequently be created and distributed to qualified students with disabilities. NIMAS files are not student-ready versions. IDEA 2004, P.L. 108-446, establishes the NIMAS as a national standard and requires states and local districts to adopt the NIMAS for providing textbooks and instructional materials to students who are blind or print-disabled.

<http://nimas.cast.org/>

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is maintained by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) of the U.S. Department of Education. OSEP provides leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts in improving results for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities (ages birth through 21). OSEP also administers the IDEA.

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/index.html>

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is the state education agency (SEA) in Washington State.

<http://www.k12.wa.us>

Special Education Technology Center (SETC)

The Special Education Technology Center (SETC) is located at Central Washington University. The SETC is designed to assist school districts with the special technology needs of students receiving special education services. It provides technology resources that are otherwise difficult to find or access.

<http://www.cwu.edu/~setc>

State Education Agency (SEA)

A State Education Agency (SEA) is an agency primarily responsible for the supervision of a state's or territory's public elementary and secondary schools.

Washington Administrative Code (WAC)

The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) is the regulation that is used to implement federal and state laws.

http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/pubdocs/wac/WAC_392_172a.pdf

Washington Assistive Technology Act Program (WATAP)

The Washington Assistive Technology Act Program (WATAP) serves Washington residents of all ages with disabilities of all types, their families, employers and employment service providers, education, healthcare and social service providers, and others seeking information about assistive technology (AT) and accessible information technology.

<http://wata.org>