

AIM

ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL

Does My Child Need AIM?



Some children may have difficulty accessing or reading their textbooks and other materials. Children with an IEP or IAP who have a print disability may need accessible instructional materials (AIM). If you think that your child may need AIM, here are some questions that you can ask at your child's next IEP or IAP.

10 Things Parents Need to Ask about AIM

1. Can my child access printed core curriculum materials?

The IEP/IAP team needs to discuss if your child is able to access the textbook, worksheets, workbooks or other printed materials used for core instruction. If your child is unable to see the text, turn the pages, or hold a book, he may need AIM.

2. Can my child gain meaning from core curriculum materials at the same rate and with the same understanding as his peers?

The IEP/IAP team needs to discuss if your child is able to understand what is read. If your child reads too slowly, stumbles on the vocabulary or is unable to comprehend what he is reading, he may need AIM.

3. What format would be best for my child?

Based on the information about your child's disability, current reading skills and access, the IEP/IAP team needs to discuss if your child would require curriculum materials in braille, large print, audio or digital formats.

4. Where can I get AIM for my child?

The school or district is ultimately responsible for providing AIM and may use several ways to get the materials. They may purchase from the textbook publisher, download files from a resource such as the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center (NIMAC) or an Accessible Materials Producer (AMP) such as Bookshare.org. They may borrow AIM from a library or they may create AIM through their own resources.

5. Will my child need other tools to use AIM?

It depends on the format and your child's needs. For example, braille formats may require a braille printer, audio formats may require a player and digital formats may require a computer to display the digital text. Additional tools may be needed to help your child see the text, hear it or understand it. These tools are called assistive technology (AT) and the IEP/IAP team needs to discuss if AT is needed to use AIM.

6. What will happen if my child, his teachers or I need help in learning how to use the technology to use AIM?

As part of the IEP/IAP, the school or district will need to discuss if any training is needed for your child, you or the rest of the IEP/IAP team to support the use of the AT and AIM.

7. If my child's IEP/IAP team is using Bookshare.org to get textbooks in digital formats of AIM, can we get other resources from Bookshare for my child to read at home?

Yes. Bookshare.org provides free access to materials for students in k-12 education who have a print disability. You can register your child for an account at www.bookshare.org to get other materials such as newspapers and novels for recreational reading.

8. My child's IEP/IAP team needs help to make AIM decisions and learn about acquiring resources for my child. Is there any way that they can get training or support?

Yes, the Louisiana Department of Education provides training on AIM and AT to support AIM through the Louisiana Assistive Technology Regional Centers. These centers are located across the state and the staff can come to your child's school or district to provide training. The 8 AT Regional Centers are listed below.

9. How can I get more information about AIM in Louisiana?

All of the Louisiana contacts and resources for AIM can be found on the website at www.atanswers.com/aim.

10. How can I get information about AIM at the national level?

The National Center on Accessible Instructional Materials is the most comprehensive website on AIM and has special resources for families at www.aim.cast.org/learn/aim4families.



Louisiana Assistive Technology Initiative



LOUISIANA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY REGIONAL CENTERS

Region 1	Belle Chasse	504-595-6071	www.region1at.com
Region 2	Plaquemine	225-687-5400 x183	www.region2at.org
Region 3	Gonzales	225-391-7278	www.lati3.com
Region 4	Lafayette	887-234-7187	www.atanswers.com
Region 5	Lake Charles	337-217-4120 x 1023	http://lati.cpsb.org
Region 6	Alexandria	318-487-5511	www.atanswers.com
Region 7	Bossier City	318-549-6113	www.region7atc.com
Region 8	Farmerville	318-368-9774	www.r8at.com

www.louisianaschools.net

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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