

Legislation involving NIMAS

The NIMAS provision was included in the revised Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004. In this legislation a standard NIMAS file format was created for the production of textbooks for the blind and print-disabled students. The result is a common file that will be provided from the publisher to a repository of NIMAS titles stored at the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center (NIMAC). The NIMAC will then make the files available to both State and Local Education Agencies, who will then have them converted into the desired accessible formats such as [braille](#), large print and [digital text](#). Utilizing these NIMAS files should expedite the production of print instructional materials for students who qualify for materials in specialized formats as set forth under the [Chafee Amendment](#) to the Copyright Act. Although the NIMAS file is not considered "student ready," having the publisher provide the file at the same time the book is published will mean a lower cost to convert into an accessible format while making it available at the beginning of the school term with higher quality than students receive currently.

By receiving study materials in NIMAS format, students can use tools that help access the content better allowing them to meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for [No Child Left Behind](#), an act passed in 2001 targeted to close the achievement gap between mainstream students and their disadvantaged and minority peers.

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige said, *"President Bush believes that every single child can learn and deserves the opportunity to learn, that's why he pushed for the historic education reforms of the No Child Left Behind Act. Today, we're taking another step toward this goal with a new, voluntary standard that will enable students and teachers to more quickly access general curriculum materials, thereby opening more doors of opportunity to students."*