

How Are Students Identified to Receive Files from the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC)?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) includes a definition of students who may be provided with accessible textbooks created with National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards (NIMAS)-conformant files from the NIMAC. That definition, used within the IDEA legislation, is “blind or other persons with print disabilities.”

“Blind or other persons with print disabilities” means children served under who may qualify in accordance with the act entitled, “An Act to provide books for the adult blind,” approved March 31, 1931 (2 USC 135a; 46 Stat.1487) to receive books and other publications produced in specialized formats [IDEA, Section 674(e)(3)(A)].

A. Eligibility Criteria

1. The following persons are eligible for such service:
 - I. Blind persons whose visual acuity, as determined by competent authority, is 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting glasses, or whose widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.
 - II. Persons whose visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, is certified by competent authority as preventing the reading of standard printed materials.
 - III. Persons certified by competent authority as unable to read or unable to use standard printed material as a result of physical limitations.
 - IV. Persons certified by competent authority as having a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent their reading printed material in a normal manner.
 - V. In cases of blindness, visual disability, or physical limitations “competent authority” is defined to include doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, ophthalmologists, optometrists, registered nurses, therapists, and professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or welfare agencies (such as social workers, case workers, counselors, rehabilitation teachers and superintendents). In the absence of any of these, certification may be made by professional librarians or by any persons whose competence under specific circumstances is acceptable to the Library of Congress.
 - VI. In the case of reading disability from organic dysfunction, competent authority is defined as doctors of medicine, who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.