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February 17, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Exceptional Student Education Directors

FROM: Bambi J. Lockman 

SUBJECT: NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD (NIMAS), RECORDINGS FOR THE BLIND AND DYSLEXIC (RFB&D), AND BOOKSHARE

The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services has received questions from districts requesting clarification about the relationship of NIMAS, RFB&D, Bookshare, and the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI). As the NIMAS Authorized User for Florida, the FIMC-VI is the provider for texts produced using NIMAS-derived files. Other titles, including textbooks published prior to August 2006, may continue to be ordered directly through RFB&D or Bookshare.

Eligibility for RFB&D and Bookshare

RFB&D and Bookshare have always been required to meet the eligibility requirements of the Chafee Amendment, so students with individual educational plans (IEPs) meeting NIMAS eligibility requirements should also meet the eligibility requirements for these entities. It should be noted that NIMAS/Florida **does** require a separate student registration and ordering process using the NIMAS/Florida database.

NIMAS is specific to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Students declared as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act **may not** be served through NIMAS/Florida. Those who **do** meet Chafee eligibility will **not** qualify for NIMAS-derived files because they do not have IEPs.

BAMBI J. LOCKMAN

Chief

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

For students who **are** Chafee-eligible, districts are encouraged to work with RFB&D and/or Bookshare. Districts should also work directly with the publishers to obtain texts in accessible format for 504 students who are not Chafee-eligible.

Available Instructional Materials

Examples of instructional materials that can be ordered in specialized formats for NIMAS-eligible students through FIMC-VI via NIMAS/Florida database include:

- 1) Florida editions or national editions of core instructional materials also known as major instructional tools listed in the State-Adopted Instructional Materials Catalog:
http://www.fldoe.org/bii/instruct_mat/catalog1.asp
- 2) Core instructional materials (textbooks) published after **August 18, 2006**

The following are examples of instructional materials, which may be ordered through RFB&D or Bookshare for NIMAS-eligible students:

- 1) Ancillary or supplemental materials that are **not** necessary to meet the curriculum requirements for the intended course
- 2) Textbooks published **prior to** August 18, 2006
- 3) Instructional materials ordered by districts with **flex funds**
- 4) Trade books that are **not** bundled with the textbooks
- 5) Reference works

We trust this information provides clarity for districts continuing to establish services for students with print disabilities through RFB&D and Bookshare. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Dawn Saunders, Program Specialist, Florida Department of Education, by electronic mail at Dawn.Saunders@fldoe.org or Ms. Suzanne Dalton, Supervisor, FIMC-VI, by electronic mail at sdalton@fimcvi.org or by telephone at (813) 837-7826.

BJL/dst

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