


## Accessible Educational Materials

### AEM Defined

Accessible educational materials (AEM) are print and technology based educational materials, including printed and electronic textbooks and related core materials that are designed or enhanced in a way that makes them usable across the widest range of learner variability, regardless of format (e.g. print, digital, graphic, audio, video). [aem.cast.org](http://aem.cast.org)

### AEM in Action

 The text is visible with large font and or high contrast if you have a print disability.

Embossed braille gives access to the material if you have a vision impairment.



Water is running

Closed captioning gives access to the video if you have a hearing impairment.

Audio captions makes the information accessible if you have a print disability.



At all IEP meetings, **"Take a Minute"** to talk about **Accessible Educational Materials** and **Assistive Technology**



## Examples of AEM & Accessible Technologies

### AEM for Students

For some students with disabilities printed text is a barrier to participating fully in their educational experience at the same extent as their nondisabled peers.

Students who are blind, have a visual impairment or other print disabilities, and those who are physically disabled may benefit from AEM. Braille, large print, auditory and digital text that retain the original content are classic examples of AEM. These accessible formats as well as supports, such as closed captioning, enable curriculum access to many students who would otherwise be left out.

Format Type	Accessible Format	AT (required)
<b>Braille</b>		
Refreshable	Yes	Yes
Embossed	Yes	No
<b>Large and Enlarged Print</b>		
Magnification	Yes	Yes
Hard Copy	Yes	No
Electronic	Yes	Yes
<b>Audio</b>		
Electronic	Yes	Yes
Human Reader	Yes	No
<b>Digital Text (Other Forms)</b>	Yes	Yes

### Definitions - [aem.cast.org](http://aem.cast.org)

- **Accessible**

The term “accessible” means a person with a disability is afforded the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability in an equally effective and equally integrated manner, with substantially equivalent ease of use ([Office of Civil Rights Compliance Review No.11-11-6002](#)).

- **Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) / Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM)**

Accessible Educational Materials, and or Accessible Instructional Materials, are **print- and technology-based educational materials/print-based educational materials**, including printed and electronic textbooks and related core materials that are designed or converted in a way that makes them usable across the widest range of individual variability regardless of format (print, digital, graphic, audio, video).

- **Accessible Media Producer (AMP)**

Accessible Media Producers (AMPs) create accessible student materials in formats like braille, large-print, digital, or audio books.

- **Audio**

Audio, in this context, is a digital form or representation of sound. It is a format that stores, copies, produces sound according to the data in its file(s). Aside from music, audio formats are frequently used for non-visual access to text and images—especially via text-to-speech software.

- **Authorized Users (AUs)**

Authorized Users are **users** that have been designated by a State Coordinator to have direct access to the **NIMAC**. They can either download NIMAS file sets themselves, or assign NIMAS file sets for download by **NIMAC**-registered Accessible Media Producers (AMPs).

- **e-book**

An electronic version of a book that can be retrieved by and read via a computer.

- **National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC)**

National Instructional Materials Access Center - Created by IDEA 2004, NIMAC is a federally funded, online file repository of source files in the NIMAS format. Here, authorized users can access NIMAS files for use in the production of accessible formats for students with disabilities.

- **National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)**

A standard format used by publishers to submit digital copies to the NIMAC. These files can be converted by an AMP into accessible format.

- **Optical Character Recognition (OCR)**

OCR software scans images and translates their content into individual elements such as letters and spaces, creating text.

- **Print Disability**

An individual who has a "print disability" is a person who cannot effectively use printed materials because of a disability, it is someone who is either blind, has a “visual impairment or perceptual or reading disability” rendering them unable to read printed works “to substantially the same degree as a person without an impairment or disability,” or has a physical disability making them unable to hold or manipulate a book or focus or move their eyes to read.

- **Text-to-Speech (TTS)**

Text-to-speech or speech synthesis is the artificial production of human speech and is generally accomplished with special software and/or hardware.

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