

AIM for Learners with Dyslexia

Maine AIM Program

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Accessible Instructional Materials

Presenter

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Objectives

Participants will be introduced to

- The impact of dyslexia on a learner's ability to access print materials;
- How students with dyslexia can benefit from AIM;
- Digital text and audio formats of instructional materials;
- Sources of curriculum materials in digital text and human-narrated audio; and
- Tools and resources.

Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) and Accessible Educational Materials (AEM)

Please refer to:

- Maine AIM website: [Is It AIM Or AEM?](#)
- National Center on Accessible Educational Materials video, [AIM Simply Said](#)
- National Center on Accessible Educational Materials video, [Simply Said: Understanding Accessibility in Digital Learning Materials](#)

Section 3D of Maine's IEP Form

AIM appears in Section 3D of the IEP form (under Considerations – Including Special Factors). The questions presented to the IEP team are: Does the child have a print disability that requires accessible instructional materials (AIM) to access the curriculum?" and "If yes, what type of accessible instructional materials (AIM) does the student require?"

In the context of the IEP form, the format of AEM under consideration is print.

AIM is a provision of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 04). A major impetus behind AIM legislation was the delay that students with disabilities historically experience in receiving textbooks and other curriculum materials in formats they can use. The AIM provision mandates that students who need AIM receive them in a "timely manner," which Maine defines as "at the same time as their peers who don't need AIM." The IEP documents a student's need for AIM to access the general education curriculum, thereby effectively participating and making progress.

[Follow this link to the Maine IEP form](#) (effective 8/1/2015)

[Follow this link to the The Maine State IEP Procedural Manual](#) (8/1/15)

Print Conversion

The visual presented in the webinar is of a standard print book (specifically, a page from Nathaniel Hawthorne's The House of the Seven Gables). This book can be converted to multiple specialized formats:

- The book can be scanned with optical character recognition software (OCR) and provided to a student in digital text format.
- It can be read aloud by a volunteer and saved as an audio format recording.
- It can be converted to a large print book with a text size of 18 points or greater.
- It can be converted to braille format for blind students.

[Follow this link for information about AEM and text](#)

AIM vs. Modified Content

AIM are sometimes confused with modified content. They are not interchangeable and a crucial difference exists. AIM are the same materials that were purchased for a curriculum but in a different format. That is, if a school or district purchases a textbook in standard print format for use by all students, AIM are the specialized formats of that material (i.e., digital text, audio, large print, or braille). Modified content, on the other hand, address the same topic as the textbook selected for the class, but the material is modified in a way that the student can understand it. For example, a material with a lower Lexile range may be required.

This is key to understanding the benefit of AIM for learners with dyslexia.

Dyslexia Defined

“Dyslexia’ means a condition that is neurological in origin and characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities that typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and in relation to the provision of effective classroom instruction; the secondary consequences of dyslexia may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.”

127th Maine Legislature LD 231 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA 4710-B

[Follow this link to LD 231: An Act To Ensure That Schoolchildren with Dyslexia Receive the Assistance Needed](#)

About Dyslexia

Readily available online:

- [International Dyslexia Association](#)

- [Misunderstood Minds: Reading \(companion site to the PBS Special\)](#)
- [Reading Rockets topic: Dyslexia](#)

Textbooks and Core Curriculum Materials in Digital Text and Audio Format

[Bookshare](#)

[Learning Ally](#)

Reading the Web and Other Digital Text- Text to Speech Tools

Built-in access:

- [Mac OS X Yosemite](#)
- [Mac OS X El Capitan](#)
- [iOS 8](#)
- [Jonathan Wylie: How to Use Text to Speech on the iPad \(10/3/15\)](#)
- [Windows 10 \(a no cost option may be preferable for some students\)](#)
- [Google Text-to-Speech](#)
- [Samsung Galaxy](#)

No Cost/Low Cost:

- [Voice Dream Reader \(iOS and Android\)](#)
- [Capti Narrator \(Windows, Mac, iOS, Firefox, Safari\)](#)
- [Natural Reader \(Windows and Mac\)](#)
- [IVONA Text-to-Speech HQ \(Android\)](#)
- [SpeakIt! \(Google Chrome extension\)](#)
- [Read&Write for Google Chrome](#)
- [ClaroPDF \(iOS\)](#) and [Filling out worksheets on the iPad using ClaroPDF and Google Drive](#) (from QIAT)

Commercial

- [Texthelp](#)
- [Kurzweil 3000](#)
- [WYNN](#)

Scanning Technology with OCR

For large scale scanning projects:

- [Abby FineReader](#)
- [OmniPage](#)

For individual student use with smartphone or tablet:

- [Genius Scan \(iOS, Windows, Android\)](#)

- [Snapverter add-on for Read&Write for Google Chrome](#)
- [ABBYY TextGrabber \(iOS and Android\)](#)
- [Prizmo \(iOS and Mac\)](#)
- [Text Detective \(iOS and Android\)](#)

Key Points

- AEM **and** AIM are required of both State and Local Education Agencies (SEAs and LEAs):
 - Print, Digital, Graphical, Audio, Video
- Learners with dyslexia have reading difficulties due to a neurologically-based impairment, and typically:
 - Have high intelligence scales relative to reading ability
 - Learn better through listening to information than reading it
- Services and tools are available to provide equal access for learners with dyslexia:
 - Bookshare and Learning Ally
 - Text to speech
 - Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software and apps

Resources

Maine:

[Maine AIM Program](#)

[Decoding Dyslexia – Maine](#)

[Learning Disabilities Association of Maine](#)

National:

[National Center on AEM](#)

[National Center for Learning Disabilities](#)

[Learning Disabilities Association of America](#)

[International Dyslexia Association](#)

Contact

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