

# Accessible Instructional Materials Books for GA Students

**Georgia Department of Education**  
**Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports**  
**1870 Twin Towers East**  
**Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

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# Session goals

- Update participants on current GIMC policies and services
- Encourage LEAs to appoint system contacts and register eligible students
- Brainstorm how the GIMC can partner with systems to get local school staff more informed about the need and availability of AIMS.
  - Get the need for AIMS documented appropriately in the IEP
  - Get students registered and receiving materials from the GIMC

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# Legal References & Definitions

- Requirement to provide AIMs
  - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004
    - Requires that State Education Agencies (SEAs) and/or Local Education Agencies (LEAs) "will provide instructional materials to blind persons or other persons with print disabilities in a timely manner" (Part B, Sec. 612(a)(23)(B) and Sec. 613(a)(6)(B)).

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# Legal References & Definitions

- Requirements to provide AIMs (cont.)
  - Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973
    - Funding recipients must provide "auxiliary aids to qualified students who have disabilities", and the Office of Civil Rights, United States Department of Education, has determined that Section 504 at 34 C.F.R. 35.160 (Communication):
      - "...in this context to mean the transfer of information, including (but not limited to) the verbal presentation of a lecturer, **the printed text of a book**, and the resources of the Internet.

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# Legal References & Definitions

- Blind persons or other persons with print disabilities
  - means children served under Part 300 who may qualify to receive books and other publications produced in specialized formats in accordance with the Act entitled “An Act to Provide Books for the Adult Blind,” approved March 3, 1931, 2 U.S.C. 135a.  
[34 CFR 300.172(e)(1)(i)] [20 U.S.C. 1474(e)(3)(A)]

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# Legal References & Definitions

- Chafee Amendment to U.S. Copyright Law
  - 1996 Amendment to the copyright law (17 U.S.C. 121 [1]). This enables nonprofit organizations or governmental agencies to provide alternative accessible copies of previously published nondramatic literary works in specialized formats exclusively for use by blind or other persons with disabilities. Amended again in 2004 by IDEA to include large print textbooks.

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# Legal References & Definitions

- Accessible Instructional Materials (AIMs)
  - Accessible Instructional Materials include specialized and alternate formats of curricular content that can be used by and with print-disabled learners.
  - **Specialized Formats**
    - Formats which do not alter or modify the content of the original printed material.
      - Braille
      - Large Print
      - Audio
      - Electronic Text formats - PDF and DAISY

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# Legal References & Definitions

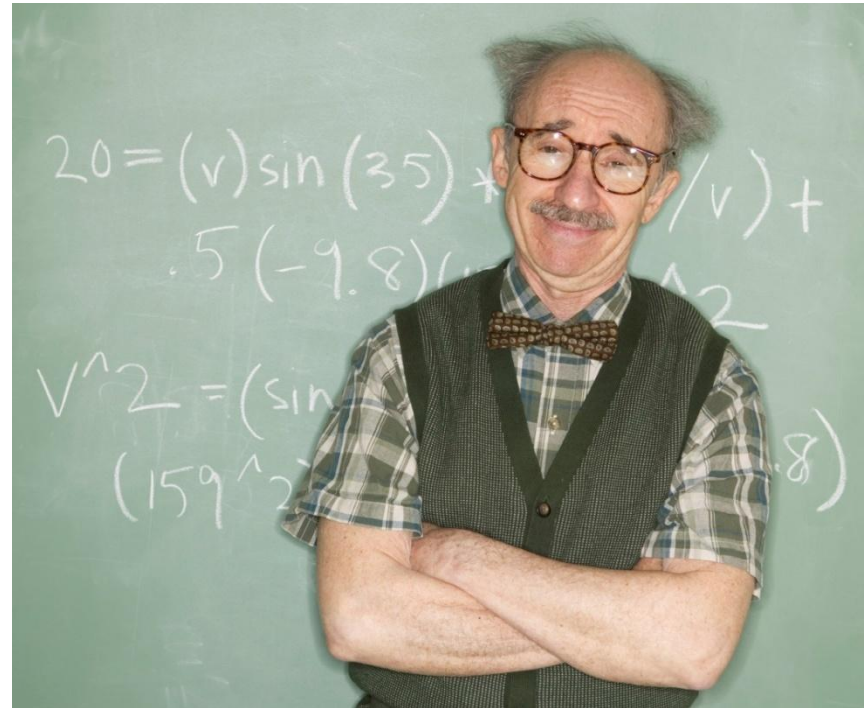
- Accessible Instructional Material (continued)
  - **Alternate Formats**
    - Formats which substantially modify the content of printed materials.
      - Books with modified vocabulary or reading level.
      - Books with communication symbols.
      - Functional books adapted for students with severe intellectual deficits.
  - <http://gadoe.georgiastandards.org/impairment.aspx> look for **“Access to the GPS: Electronic Resource Board”**
  - Contact Kayse [Harshaw@kharshaw@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:Harshaw@kharshaw@doe.k12.ga.us) for more information

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# Eligibility, Certification, and Documentation

- Determining Eligibility
  - In order for a student who is blind or has other print disabilities to be determined eligible for accessible instructional materials, the student's eligibility must be certified by a **competent authority**.



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# Eligibility, Certification, and Documentation

- Competent Authority

- In the 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 private welfare agencies. (36 CFR 701.6(b)(2)).
- In the case of a reading disability from organic brain dysfunction, **“competent authority” is defined as doctors of medicine or osteopathy** who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.

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# Eligibility, Certification, and Documentation

- Eligibility Form
  - The LEA can use any documentation that states that the student has an eligible print disability and is signed by a competent authority.
  - A suggested form is available on the GIMC website [www.gimc.org/forms.htm#Miscellaneous](http://www.gimc.org/forms.htm#Miscellaneous) .
  - This form, as well as any other documentation does not have to be provided to agencies providing AIMs but must be kept on file by the LEA.
- Students who have the print disability documented in the IEP, but who do not have that disability certified may be registered with the GIMC, but it must be understood that the availability of materials may be limited.

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# Which Format?

- The appropriate specialized format is determined by considering the student's immediate and near future learning strengths and needs.
- GPAT Consideration checklist, SETT framework and Learning Media Assessment (LMA) are common instruments
- It is common for a student to require different formats and different means to access the format for different tasks in different environments.

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# Which Format?

- The specialized format is determined by the student's team.
- It is common for a student to require different formats and different means to access the format for different tasks in different environments.
- Team must approach the question from a feature match perspective:
  - What are the student's learning strengths and challenges?
  - What tasks are to be completed – what type of reading?
  - What are the current and near future needs?
  - What tools has the student used in the past? Still applicable?
  - What environmental factors are involved –support, power, access?
  - What media format(s) will meet task and skill?

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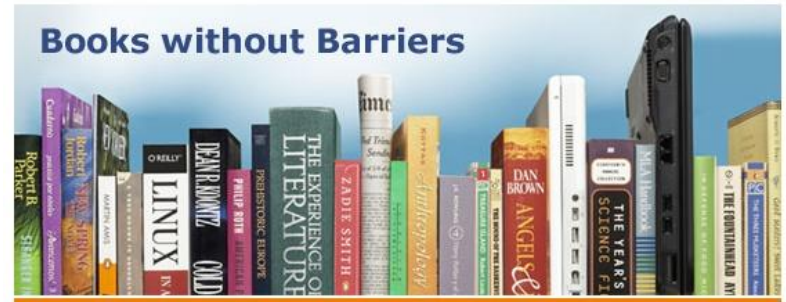
# Primary Sources of Accessible Textbooks in Georgia

- Electronic Text
  - Currently available without cost from Bookshare.org to eligible registered students.
  - Electronic text (DAISY and PDF) that is not available from Bookshare.org will be provided by the GIMC.
- Audio
  - Available to students or organizations that have a membership with Recordings for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D). Currently available without cost to eligible registered students.
- Braille & Large Print
  - Braille and large print are usually provided without cost from the GIMC for eligible registered students.
- LEAs can also produce or purchase AIMs

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# Bookshare

- Bookshare's textbooks are available in a text based DAISY format.
- All their textbooks are created using NIMAS files so eligibility is required.



- GIMC book search may indicate an available Bookshare textbook file
- A wide variety of leisure books are also available to all members
- Textbooks are available in two files sizes and with/without images.
- Free reading technology from Bookshare
  - Victor Reader Soft
  - Read:OutLoud Bookshare

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# Recordings for the Blind & Dyslexic

- RFB&D books are available on CDs, in an audio DAISY format, and an audio only download. MP3, AudioPlus and Audio Access formats
- They have a very wide range of textbooks and a variety of leisure books.
- RFB&D books are created using human readers.
- Students must be eligible for memberships before being able to download or order books on CD
- Books from RFB&D require a proprietary player or a license key, for hardware or software access.



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# Georgia Instructional Materials Center

- The GIMC provides braille and large print textbooks and a selection of leisure books to students in Georgia.
- The GIMC will also provide electronic versions of textbooks that are not available from Bookshare or RFB&D
  - Accessible PDF format books are being produced.
  - Provide software for students who need it
- Books are loaned for a school year



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# Changes in GIMC Registration

- All student registration is completed through the on-line registration form [www.gimc.org/forms.htm](http://www.gimc.org/forms.htm)
- There is a separate form for students who are legally blind and all others who are eligible because of a physical or another organic based print disability
  - “Physical” includes those students who are low vision, but are not legally blind
- Georgia Testing ID and a current IEP with the print related disability documented is required for registration



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# Just a reminder....

## Deadlines for Ordering AIMs

- **Order AIMs prior to the date the student requires them as indicated below:**
  - Braille: 12 weeks prior\*
  - Large Print: 8 weeks prior
  - Digital formats 6 weeks prior
- \* Braille requests for new adoptions and other books that will have to be transcribed must be placed at least **16** weeks prior.

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# Reading Technology

- DAISY
  - Dolphin EasyReader 5.10
    - Bookshare books
    - Non-Bookshare books
  - Read:OutLoud– Bookshare edition
    - Bookshare books only
- Accessible PDF
  - Universal Reader Plus
  - Adobe Reader with a text reader layered on top

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# For additional information contact:

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