**What is AIM?**
AIM stands for Accessible Instructional Materials.

**What is AIM Minnesota?**
The 2004 reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) included the requirement that students who have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) with print disabilities receive their textbooks and core-related instructional materials in a timely manner. Students with disabilities on Section 504 plans are covered under the Copyright Act as amended (Chafee Amendment). Although this is not a new requirement for local districts, the Minnesota Department of Education is currently conducting an initiative called AIM Minnesota to assist local districts in meeting this requirement.

**Who is Responsible?**
School districts have the ultimate responsibility to provide learning materials that are accessible to all students with print disabilities. Core curriculum material and textbooks may need to be converted to these specialized formats. Specialized formats enable students with print disabilities to gain the information they need to complete tasks, master IEP or Section 504 goals, and reach curricular standards. Specialized formats are also provided to students who are unable to gain information from traditional print materials.

**What Formats Are Available?**
Braille, large print, audio and digital text.

**How Are These Materials Provided?**
These accessible materials may be secured from different sources depending upon the defining characteristics of the student's disability and need. These specialized formats can be obtained through the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) for qualified students, purchased from publishers or developed locally by school districts, area education agencies or some other entity. According to federal law only authorized users are able to access the NIMAC. In Minnesota the authorized users currently are the Minnesota Department of Education, The Communication Center at State Services for the Blind, Bookshare for Education and Recordings for Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) .

1. IDEA (2004 Reauthorization) requires Local Education Authorities (LEAs) to ensure that all students with IEPs who require AIM receive these materials in a timely manner. Students with disabilities on Section 504 Plans are covered under the Chafee Amendment.
2. AIM refers to textbooks, core related instructional materials, and all other **printed** materials that students (K-12) would use in their classrooms.
3. “Timely manner” is defined in the Rules of Special Education as “at the same time as non-disabled peers receive their textbooks and core-related instructional materials.”

4. AIM can be rendered in four specialized formats: Braille, large print, audio, and digital text.
5. IDEA also requires that LEAs who purchase textbooks and core related instructional materials after July 19, 2006 must require publishers/vendors in their purchasing agreements to send a National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards (NIMAS) Conformant Fileset of the textbook(s) to the NIMAC. The federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has taken the position that every textbook and related core materials sold by K-12 publishers (that is, works still “in print” as opposed to “out of print”) after July 19, 2006 is subject to a request for conversion to NIMAS filesets and subsequent submission to the NIMAC.
6. Eligible students who have a print disability and require AIM:
    - Those who qualify under the Copyright Act, as amended (blind, visually impaired, physically disabled, or have a reading disability based upon an organic dysfunction).
    - Those who don’t qualify under the Copyright Act, as amended (whose print disability still requires the use of AIM in order for them to progress in the general education curriculum).

August 2009