ACCESSIBLE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
What Parents Need to Know

SOME CHILDREN HAVE DISABILITIES THAT PREVENT THEM FROM USING PRINTED MATERIALS IN THE SAME WAY THEIR PEERS DO

A student with a visual impairment might not be able to see the print in a book.

A student with a physical impairment might not be able to to turn the pages of a textbook.

A student with a specific learning disability might not be able to read the words in a textbook.

To help with these difficulties, students can use accessible educational materials (AEM). Accessible means that materials are designed or converted so they can be used by students with disabilities. These materials provide the same information found in textbooks and handouts in different formats. AEM presents the same content as a printed textbook or other instructional material in a different way, often using technology.

IF I THINK MY CHILD NEEDS ACCESSIBLE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If you think your child needs accessible educational materials, discuss it with the other members of your child's IEP team. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires schools to provide accessible educational materials to students with disabilities who need them.

HOW DO I GET ACCESSIBLE MATERIALS FOR MY CHILD?

If the IEP team determines that a student with a disability requires accessible educational materials, there are a number of ways to get them. Some textbook publishers have accessible formats available for purchase by your child's school. Some textbooks may need to be converted by an alternative media producer.

WHAT SPECIALIZED FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE

BRAILLE
This format is used almost exclusively by students with visual impairments. Braille formats can be produced as printed documents or as digital files to be read by a computer or other Braille display device.

LARGE PRINT
This format is for hard copy materials that have larger text size than that used in most standard print materials.

AUDIO
This format provides spoken information that students can listen to and understand and either uses a human voice or synthesized electronic speech.

DIGITAL TEXT
This format presents information in many different ways. Students can manipulate digital text on a computer or other electronic device to change how text is displayed (size and color). Digital text can also enable some programs to read the text aloud.

Please encourage a member of your IEP team to contact the Arizona Department of Education AEM Coordinator to learn more:

👤 **Contact: Judy Olaiz**   ✉ **Email: judy.olaiz@azed.gov**   📞 **Phone (602) 542-3852**

🌐 **Website: www.azed.gov/special-education/special-projects/accessible**