



NIMAS/Florida

Accessible Instructional Materials

FDLRS Institute on Student Achievement

Daytona Beach, Florida

November 13, 2009

NIMAS/Florida is about ... *student achievement!*



Definitions

NIMAS – National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard



This standardized electronic file format used by textbook publishers facilitates the creation of accessible core instructional materials for students with disabilities.

Purpose of **NIMAS**

- **Timely delivery** of specialized formats to K-12 students
- **Improved student achievement** among print disabled students
- **Eliminate duplication of effort** by publishers, SEAs, and LEAs
- **Provide greater copyright protection** for publishers' content

NIMAC – National Instructional Materials Access Center

- Houses NIMAS XML files that can be converted into accessible formats for use with qualified K-12 students.
- Maintains procedures to protect against copyright infringement to accessible core instructional materials.



IDEA Requirements

State education agencies (SEAs) adopt the **NIMAS** for the purpose of providing instructional materials to persons who are blind and other persons with print disabilities, and to ensure that these materials are provided in a ***timely manner***.



.....Section 612(a)(23)

» similar requirements for local educational agencies (LEAs)

- Included in district assurances Section 613(a)(6)

NIMAS and IDEA



SEAs and LEAs also have an obligation to provide accessible instructional materials in a timely manner to children with disabilities who may need educational materials in accessible formats, but who are not eligible to receive materials produced from files obtained through the **NIMAC**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about Implementation of **NIMAS**



What disabilities qualify a student to be served with NIMAS-derived accessible textbooks?

1. **Blind** - persons whose visual acuity, as determined by competent authority, is 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses, or whose widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.
2. **Visual Impairment** - persons whose visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, is certified by competent authority as preventing the reading of standard printed material.



What disabilities qualify a student to be served with NIMAS-derived accessible textbooks?

3. Physical Limitations - persons certified by competent authority as unable to read or unable to use standard printed material as a result of physical limitations.

- Examples of physical limitations may include:
 - Difficulty holding a book and turn pages
 - Difficulty visually tracking lines of print
 - Difficulty obtaining meaning from printed materials



What disabilities qualify a student to be served with NIMAS-derived accessible textbooks?

4. **Print Disabilities** – persons certified by competent authority as having a **reading disability** resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent their reading printed material in a normal manner.



- Access to NIMAS-derived accessible textbooks will allow students with print disabilities to gain the information they need to complete tasks, master IEP goals, and reach curricular standards

“Competent Authority” in cases of blindness, visual impairment or physical limitations

- Doctors of medicine
- Doctors of osteopathy
- Ophthalmologists
- Optometrists
- Registered nurses
- Therapists
- Professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or private welfare agencies (e.g., social workers, case workers, counselors, rehabilitation teachers, and superintendents).



Competent Authority

- In the case of *reading disability* from organic dysfunction, competent authority is defined as doctors of medicine and doctors of osteopathy who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.



What are ...

“Core Instructional Materials?”

- Printed textbooks and related printed core materials published with the texts...
 - Written and published primarily for use in **elementary and secondary school instruction**
 - Required by Florida Department of Education or school district for use by students in the classroom (**State-Adopted Instructional Materials**)



What are ...

“Core Instructional Materials?”

- Provisions for depositing NIMAS XML files have been made in the **draft sample contract language** for textbook adoption http://www.fldoe.org/BII/Instruct_Mat/pdf/contract1.pdf
- **Catalog of State-Adopted Instructional Materials** http://www.fldoe.org/bii/instruct_mat/catalog1.asp



Core Instructional Materials are NOT...

- Trade books not bundled with the textbooks
- Newspapers
- Reference works
- Ancillary or supplemental materials that are *not* necessary to meet the curriculum requirements for the intended course

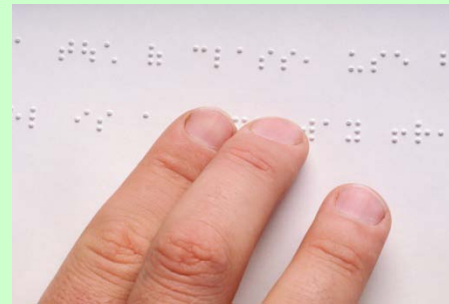


What are “Specialized Formats”?

- Section 121 (C)(3) of the Copyright Code ([The Chafee Amendment](#)) identifies **three formats** eligible for use by students qualified to benefit from the Chafee exemption:
 - “‘specialized formats’ means **Braille**, **audio**, or **digital text** which is exclusively for use by blind or other persons with disabilities” (Copyright Law Amendment 1996, National Library Service Factsheets, Washington, DC, 2006).
- IDEA 2004 in Section 306(2)(c)(3)(B)(4)(B) modifies this statute to include **large print** as an allowable, “specialized” format:
 - “with respect to print instructional materials, includes **large print** formats when such materials are distributed exclusively for use by blind or other persons with disabilities.”

The “Specialized Formats” are ...

1. Braille (including tactile graphics)

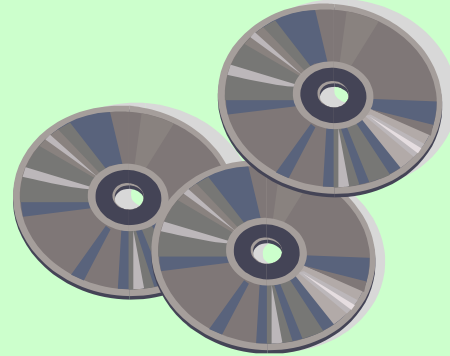


2. Audio -----



The “Specialized Formats” are ...

3. Digital text (E-text) ----

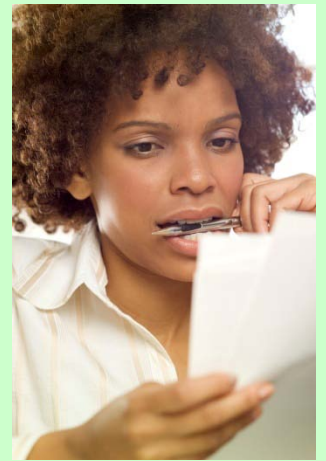


4. Large print -----

Accessible versions for use exclusively for use by blind or other students with print disabilities



What is Digital Text?



NIMAS

Accessible Textbooks in the Classroom II

Prepared by Skip Stahl, with support from Joy Zabala,
Chuck Hitchcock, and Valerie Hendricks

Version 1.1, updated March 25, 2008

http://nimas.cast.org/about/resources/accessible_textbooks_ii

What is Digital Text?

“What is important ... for educators ... is an understanding that although the term “digital text” has not been, and is unlikely to be, specifically defined, the student-eligibility criteria for using specialized formats is clear, as is the fact that the Chafee exemption is for those students’ exclusive use.”



What Can Be Done with Digital Text?

- Digital text can be read aloud using synthetic speech.
 - This can be accomplished using **Supported Reading Software (SRS)**: free, low-cost, or high-end text-to-speech applications.



What Can Be Done with Digital Text?



Synthetic speech created from digital text can be saved as an **MP3 file** and downloaded to a portable MP3 player (iPod, etc.), burned to a cross-platform CD or saved to another storage device (hard disk, thumb drive, etc.). This is accomplished by using an SRS application that supports saving in an MP3 format.

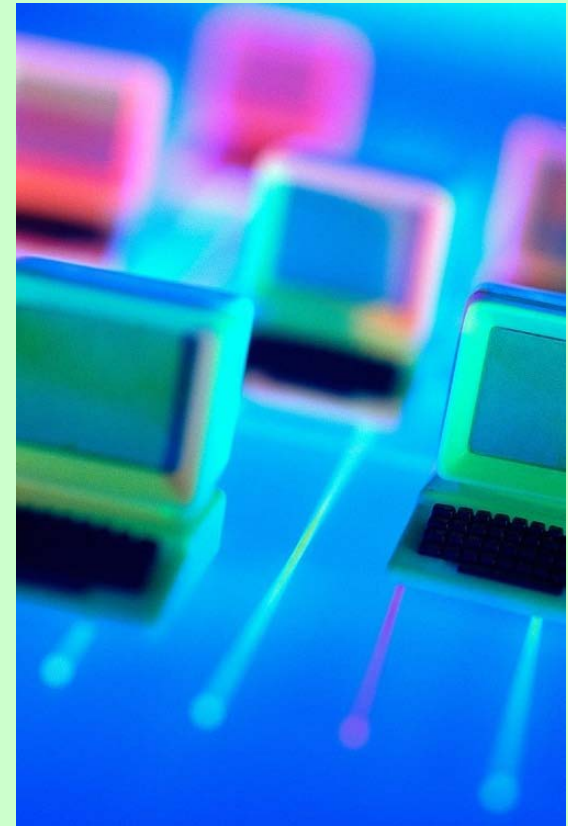
What Can Be Done with Digital Text?

- Digital text can be easily **magnified**, and **custom colors** can be applied.
- Digital text can be **hyperlinked** to additional content: definitions, background information, prompts, etc.



What Can Be Done with Digital Text?

- Digital text can include **embedded or linked multimedia**: both audio and video.
- Digital text can be **shared** on computer network.



NIMAS/Florida

Implementation Plan

DRAFT CONCEPT



NIMAS/Florida is about ...



student achievement!!!

What is a ***School*** Digital Rights Manager?



- The ***School Digital Rights Manager (DRM)*** - the person responsible for ordering materials for their school
 - Submit ***student registration*** and ***book ordering information*** to the *DRM*
- School DRM may be any member of school staff that has experience providing services to students with disabilities



What is a ***District*** Digital Rights Manager?

- A ***District Digital Rights Manager (DRM)*** is a staff member responsible for requesting and tracking the usage of copyrighted accessible materials for students qualified with print disabilities.
- Student registration and book ordering information will be transmitted through the **web-based NIMAC database system** currently in development at Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI).

What is a ***District*** Digital Rights Manager?

- Districts may appoint from **one** to **seven** DRMs
- Appointed by the District Administrator of Exceptional Student Education (ESE), the District DRM will register electronically with FIMC-VI and sign an Agreement Form ***assuring the district will adhere to the terms of IDEA and current copyright laws with regards to the files received from FIMC-VI.***

School **NIMAS** Responsibilities

- **Provide accessible instructional materials** to:
 - Students with visual impairments
 - Students with physical impairments
 - Students with print disabilities due to an organic dysfunction



School **NIMAS** Responsibilities

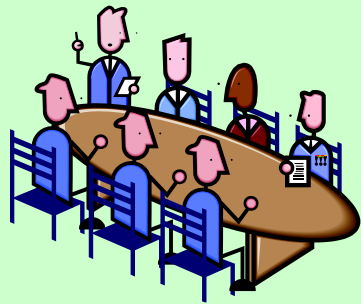


- Establish **School NIMAS Accessible Materials Committee**
 - Develop **school implementation plan** with goals, objectives and timelines
 - Appoint **School NIMAS Digital Rights Manager** (DRM) who will submit student registration information and orders for instructional materials to District NIMAS DRM

District **NIMAS** Responsibilities

- **Provide accessible instructional materials** to *students with physical impairments* and *students with print disabilities due to an organic dysfunction*
- Appoint **District NIMAS Digital Rights Manager(s)** who will transmit student registration and book ordering information through the **web-based NIMAC database system** currently in development at FIMC-VI





District **NIMAS** Responsibilities

- Establish a ***District NIMAS Accessible Materials Committee***.
 - This committee may include: ESE District Administrator; ESE staff with experience providing instructional materials, curricular support, assistive technology and instructional technology services to students with disabilities; district instructional materials' staff, district networking instructional technology staff; and parents of students with disabilities.

District **NIMAS** Responsibilities

- *District* **NIMAS Accessible Materials Committee** develops **district implementation plan** with goals, objectives and timelines



District **NIMAS** Responsibilities

- ***District NIMAS Accessible Materials Committee*** coordinates the **provision of professional development** and technical assistance to school-based staff and/or IEP teams; topics may include:
 - ✓ determining if the **student needs** instructional materials in alternate formats by reviewing the student's evaluation information and present levels of achievement ...



District **NIMAS** Responsibilities

- ✓ Determining the **alternate formats** needed by the student
- ✓ Identifying **instruction, supports, services, and/or training** will be needed by the student and others to use the materials effectively
- ✓ Identifying if student is **eligible** to access NIMAS-derived files
- ✓ Taking steps to **obtain accessible materials**



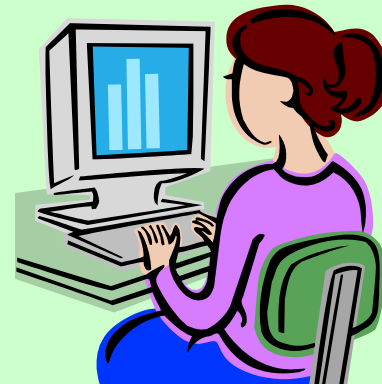
Continuing District **NIMAS** Responsibilities



- Provision of accessible instructional materials to students with *visual Impairments* and students with *deaf-blindness* through the existing web-based student registration and materials ordering system based at FIMC-VI www.fimcvi.org.
- District Administrators of Exceptional Student Education annually appoint the authorized users of the FIMC-VI database.

Continuing District **NIMAS** Responsibilities

- FIMC-VI Authorized Users for each district (often teachers of the visually impaired serve as authorized users) will register students and order instructional materials through the existing web-based FIMC-VI database system.



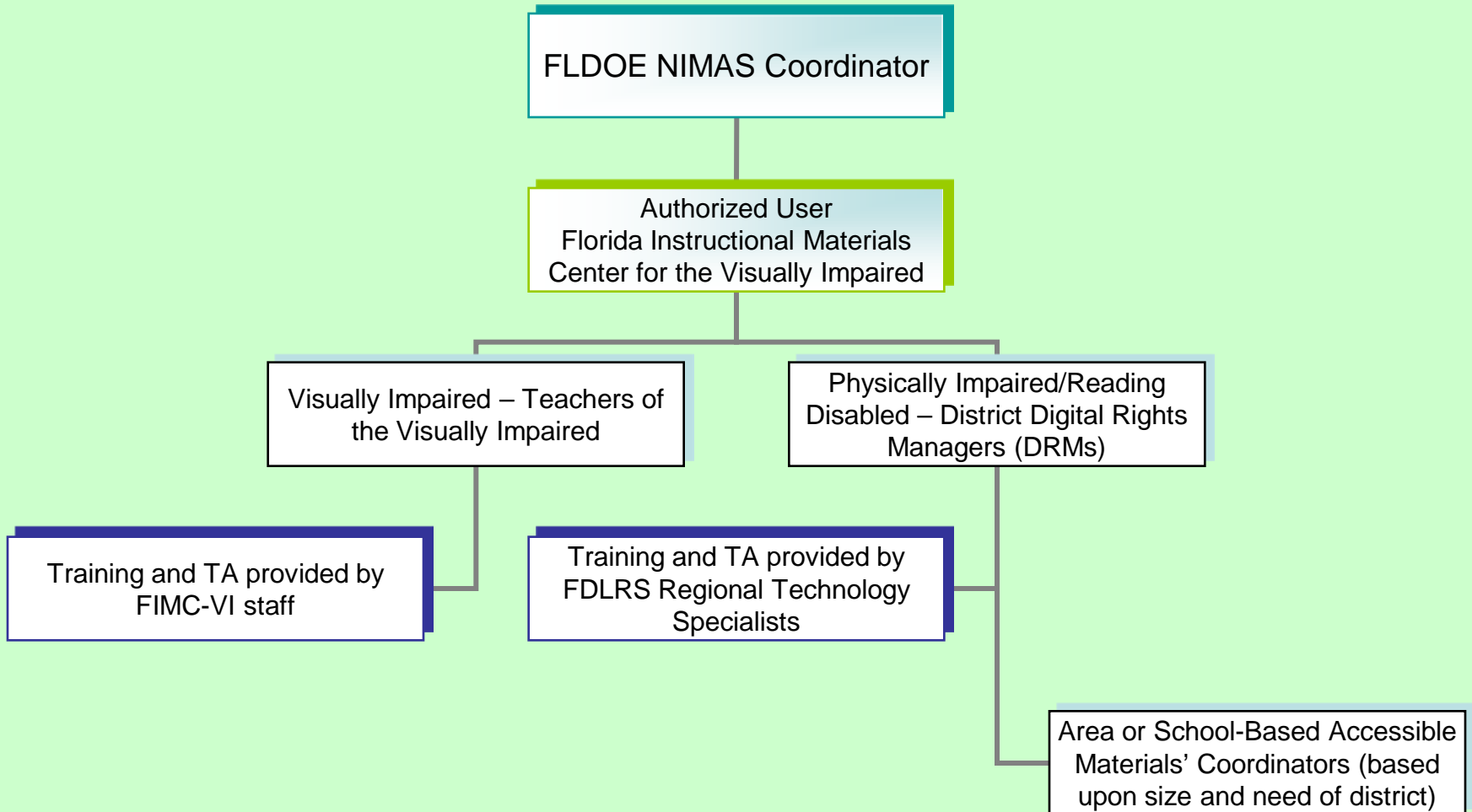
NIMAS Responsibilities

Florida Department of Education (FDOE)

- Adopt NIMAS and coordinate with NIMAC
- Require publishers to prepare and provide to NIMAC, the electronic files containing the contents of the state-adopted instructional materials using NIMAS
- Appoint a FDOE NIMAS Coordinator



NIMAS Responsibilities



NIMAS Responsibilities

Florida Department of Education (FDOE)

- Develop a **NIMAS Implementation Plan** with objectives, responsible entities and timelines
 - Assign FIMC-VI as **Authorized User**
 - Align existing statewide **professional development** activities
 - ✓ Five **FDLRS Regional Technology Specialists**
(FDLRS RTS)
 - ✓ Nineteen **FDLRS Local Technology Specialists**
(FDLRS LTS)

FDLRS **R**egional **T**echnology **S**pecialists

- Provide **systematic implementation of NIMAS services/training statewide via traditional and eLearning methods** (podcasts, webinars, virtual workshops and face-to-face) to:
 - Local Assistive Technology Specialists (LATS)
 - FDLRS Local Technology Specialists (FDLRS LTS)
 - ESE stakeholders



FDLRS **R**egional **T**echnology **S**pecialists

- Coordinate training related to NIMAS implementation with **existing state-funded projects** particularly efforts addressing Quality IEPs and Response to Intervention (Rtl) training
- Topics may address:
 - ✓ the **need for accessible digital literacy tools/features** for students eligible to access NIMAS-derived files

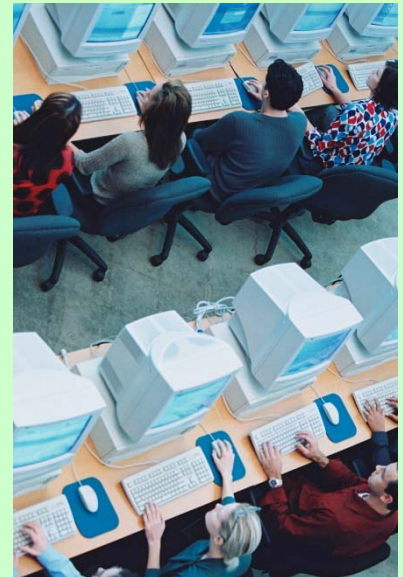


FDLRS **R**egional **T**echnology **S**pecialists

- ✓ Assessment protocols which aide in **selection of accessible digital literacy tools** necessary for qualifying students' access to general curriculum
- ✓ Assistive Technology Teams' involvement in the **interpretation of assessment trials** for students qualified to access NIMAS XML files

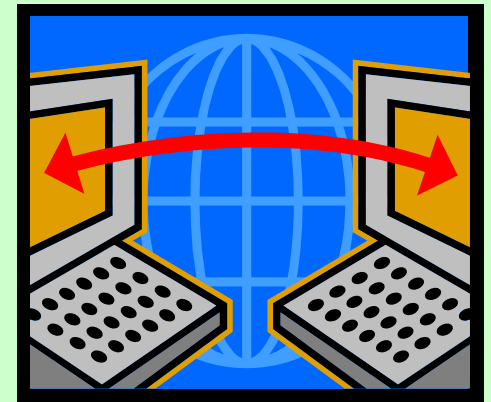
FDLRS **R**egional **T**echnology **S**pecialists

- ✓ **IEP Team responsibilities** related to NIMAS such as writing IEP goals including accommodations or modifications necessary for provision of digital learning and digital instructional materials
- ✓ **Training needs** of **District DRMs** and **School DRMs** related to NIMAS implementation



FDLRS **L**ocal **T**echnology **S**pecialists

- **Support the NIMAS-related trainings** provided by the FDLRS RTS via traditional and eLearning methods (pod casts, webinars, virtual workshops and face-to-face) at the **district and school level**
 - Coordinate training related to NIMAS implementation with **existing state-funded projects** particularly efforts addressing Quality IEPs and Response to Intervention (RTI) training



FDLRS **L**ocal **T**echnology **S**pecialists

- **Training topics** may include:
 - ✓ NIMAS/NIMAC **definitions and eligibility criteria**
 - ✓ **Team-building** skills and **decision-making**
 - ✓ **IEP Team Responsibilities** related to NIMAS implementation
- Assist districts in **building local capacity** to provide accessible materials for students not eligible to access NIMAS XML files



NIMAS Stakeholders Committee

- Establish a direction for FDOE that addresses **improved communication** among those with responsibility for successful implementation of NIMAS
- **Approve NIMAS Implementation Plan**
- **Evaluate effectiveness** of NIMAS Implementation Plan



NIMAS/Florida News



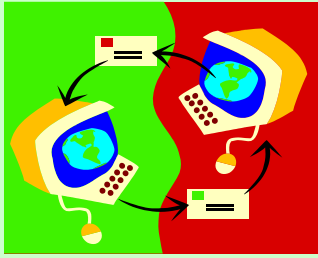
- **December 26, 2007** - President Bush signed H.R. 2764, which included language indemnifying the NIMAC
- **March, 2008** - Florida completed electronic registration with the NIMAC and signed the state coordination agreement
- Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI) will serve as the single **Authorized User** for Florida
- As fiscal agent for FIMC-VI, Hillsborough County School Board will review NIMAC Limitation of Use Agreement on **November 18, 2008**



NIMAS: Next Steps



- FIMC-VI is currently **reconfiguring our database** to accept student registrations and orders for students with print disabilities other than visual impairment
- New database will be known as the **NIMAS/Florida Module**
- Districts must identify a **NIMAS Digital Rights Manager (DRM)** who will be responsible for registering students and ordering NIMAS-sourced materials
- District DRMs will contact FIMC-VI to order accessible materials



NIMAS/Florida

Accessible Instructional Materials



1. FLDOE adopts NIMAS; also includes NIMAS/NIMAC language in the Public Schools Instructional Materials Contract.

2. **Publishers** submit NIMAS files sets to **NIMAC** for state-adopted textbooks and related core materials.

3. **NIMAC** receives, validates, and catalogs NIMAS file sets received from publishers.

4. **FIMC-VI** develops and implements **NIMAS/Florida web ordering database system**.

5. **LEAs designate DRM(s)**; DRM(s) receive log-in and password via email from **FIMC-VI**.

6. FDLRS/RTS provide ongoing training/technical assistance for DRM(s), LATS, RLATS and FDLRS Local Technology Specialists.

7. DRM(s) access the NIMAS/Florida web portal to login, register students with print disabilities, order textbooks/related core materials and view order status.

8. **FIMC-VI** downloads requested NIMAS file sets from **NIMAC** to enhance/convert them to specialized formats or assigns textbooks to **AMPs** for conversion.

9. DRM(s) and FDLRS/RTS receive email confirmations related to order status and materials' delivery.

10. **AMP** delivers requested accessible instructional materials to **DRM** via downloadable file or CD.

11. *Textbooks and related core materials delivered to student!*



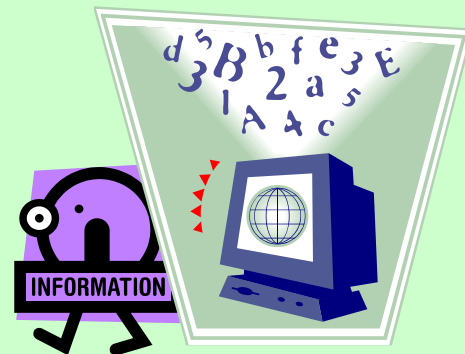
NIMAS: Support and Technical Assistance



- Will include but is not limited to:
 - Initial training of District **Digital Rights Managers** (DRMs)
 - Follow-up training and technical assistance for **district and school personnel**
 - **FDLRS Regional Technology Specialists** (FDLRS RTS)
 - **FDLRS Local Technology Specialists** (FDLRS LTS)
 - **Technical Assistance Papers** (TAP) - BEESS

National **NIMAS** Resources

- NIMAC – www.nimac.us
 - Frequently Asked Questions --
<http://www.nimac.us/faq.html>
- Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) –
<http://nimas.cast.org>
 - Resources --
<http://nimas.cast.org/about/resources/index.html>
 - Frequently Asked Questions --
<http://nimas.cast.org/about/faq/index.html>



NIMAS/Florida Contacts



- Dawn Saunders, Program Specialist
(NIMAS State Coordinator)
 - Dawn.Saunders@fldoe.org or (850)245-0478
- Suzanne Dalton, Supervisor, FIMC-VI
 - sdalton@fimcvi.org or 1-800-282-9193
- David Davis, FDLRS Technology
Coordinating Unit (FDLRS Tech)
 - davidd@paec.org or 850-638-6131 ext 2242



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