

# AIM-VA

## Summary

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**What:** AIM-VA= Accessible Instructional Materials for print disabled students  
Read: OutLoud Universal Access program, a digital text reader,  
1. Don Johnston  
2. support all students with IEP's denoting visual impairment

**Who:** VDOE + GMU + Don Johnston  
Available statewide

1. whole-school license
2. must be registered Digital Rights Manager with AIM-VA
3. Richmond City is registered and all Vision Literacy Teachers are DRM

**When:** NIMAS (National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard) Library was put in place Virginia was unable to join at the National level due to the language of participation agreement, so VDOE AT Department started to put in place an alternative system for providing accessible educational media to students who meet eligibility under federal requirements for print disabilities and who have IEPs. Text formats include pdf, braille, braille ready file (digital text format used to create braille), large print, MSWord document using solid black, sans serif font unless color is used for hyperlinks, recorded audio, Rich Text Format (document file of text and graphics developed for easy transfer of documents between apps, platforms, and output devices, NIMAS-VA format (modified to include Virginia's Copyright Statement at the beginning done to protect the original information and ensure that it is used only by those students who are eligible); NIMAS is a technical standard used by publishers to produce source files (in XML) that may be used to develop multiple specialized formats (such as Braille or audio books) for students with print disabilities.

The source files are prepared using Extensible Markup Language (XML) to mark up the structure of the original content and provide a means for presenting the content in a variety of ways and styles. For example, once a NIMAS fileset has been produced for printed materials, the XML and image source files may be used to create Braille, large print, HTML versions, DAISY talking books using human voice or text-to-speech, audio files derived from text-to-speech transformations, and more.

The separation of content from presentation is an important feature of the NIMAS approach. In most cases, a human will need to enhance the source files to provide additional features needed by diverse learners.

The various specialized formats created from NIMAS filesets may then be used to support a very diverse group of learners who qualify as students with print disabilities. To learn more about NIMAS please visit their website: <http://nimas.cast.org/index.html>  
Copied from: <http://nimas.cast.org/about/faq/index.html#q>

The NIMAC is a central national repository established at the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) that will contain NIMAS file sets. It will feature an automated system for allowing publishers to deposit NIMAS-conformant files within the repository. The files will be checked to confirm that they are valid NIMAS-conformant files, and the files will be cataloged in a web-based database. Those who have been authorized for access will have user identifications and passwords. These authorized users will be able to search the NIMAC database and download directly the file(s) they need to convert to accessible instructional materials for those students who are in elementary and secondary schools and have qualifying disabilities. To learn more about NIMAS please visit their website: <http://nimas.cast.org/index.html>

**WHERE:** and how to get materials– make a request to the district’s DRMs (digital rights managers) Vision Teachers are listed as digital managers who ensure and document copyright compliance.