



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Education
Albuquerque Service Center
Division of Performance and Accountability
1011 Indian School Road NW, Suite 332
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUL 26 2010

Memorandum

To: School Administrators

From: **ACTING** Associate Deputy Director, Division of Performance and Accountability

Subject: National Instructional Materials Accessible Standard (NIMAS) - Bookshare

The National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS), was established under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004 sections 612(a)(23)(A) and 674(e)(4). States are required to address the difficulty in obtaining accessible textbooks for students with disabilities.

The NIMAS legislation offers a means to assist states in the responsibility of establishing a repository called the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC). The NIMAS collects, stores related files and makes them available to the states. The regulation allows for states to opt-in or opt-out of the NIMAC, the BIE has chosen to opt-out. The BIE schools are tasked with the responsibility to ensure that accessible specialized formats of instructional materials are provided to students with print disabilities in a timely manner.

Attached is the guidance document *Books without Barriers* regarding a free online repository of electronic, accessible books for students who are blind or have other print disabilities made available through participation in the Bookshare Program. The Bookshare Program also provides web based trainings and on-site workshop professional development opportunities.

If you have any questions, please contact Gloria Yepa, Supervisory Education Specialist for Special Education, at (505) 563-5264 or by e-mail at gloria.yepa@bie.edu.

Attachment

Cc: Education Line Officer
Associate Deputy Director East
Associate Deputy Director Navajo
Associate Deputy Director West