

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES
29.00 RULES AND REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE ACCESSIBLE
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS LOAN PROGRAM
July 2008

29.01 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- 29.01.1 These regulations shall be known as Arkansas Department of Education Regulations to Implement the Accessible Instructional Materials Loan Program.
- 29.01.2 These regulations are enacted pursuant to the State Board of Education's authority under 20 U.S.C § 1412 (23).

29.02 PURPOSE

- 29.02.1 It is the purpose of these regulations to set forth the criteria for determining a child's eligibility for materials in an accessible instructional format (i.e. Braille, large print, audio or video, or other electronic media).
- 29.02.2 These regulations define the process for local school districts to access such accessible instructional materials for children with visual impairments.

29.03 DEFINITIONS

- 29.03.1 For the purpose of these regulations, adaptive textbooks, and other instructional materials are defined to mean Braille, large print, and other electronic media.
- 29.03.2 IDEA refers to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- 29.03.3 IEP means the individualized education program for a child with disabilities under the IDEA.
- 29.03.4 Learning Media Assessment (LMA) authored by Koenig, A. & Holbrook, C., 1995, is a structured systematic procedure used to gather information and document decisions regarding the selection of reading and writing media for children who are visually impaired.
- 29.03.5 Braille Skills Inventory is an assessment that provides teachers of children who are visually impaired or blind, who read Braille, with

a tool that promotes meaningful assessment of Braille literacy skills.

- 29.03.6 Informal Reading Inventories (IRIs) as used in these regulations refers to commercially available IRIs which are adapted into Braille and large print and used as a part of continuing assessment to determine child progress in reading as measured by reading comprehension and reading rate.
- 29.03.7 Reading rates are measured using informal reading inventories and content texts and are one component of the data needed to determine efficiency in a child's current literacy media.
- 29.03.8 Functional vision assessment as used in these regulations refers to data gathered by a certified teacher of the visually impaired which provides evidence of a child's use of visual ability in near and distance tasks.

29.04 ADMINISTRATION

- 29.04.1 The accessible format instructional materials program for children with visual impairments shall be administered by the Instructional Resource Center at the Arkansas School for the Blind and shall be supervised by the Arkansas Department of Education's Special Education Unit.

29.05 ELIGIBILITY FOR ADAPTIVE TEXTBOOKS

- 29.05.1 The following criteria should be considered when determining the appropriate reading medium for children with visual impairment.
 - 29.05.1.1 Observations made by, but not limited to, the classroom teacher, parent, teacher of the visually impaired, and certified educational vision consultant.
 - 29.05.1.2 Assessment by a regional vision consultant, vision teacher or reading teacher to include the following, as appropriate.
 - A. Learning Media Assessment
 - B. Braille Skills Inventory
 - C. Functional vision assessment

D. Reading rates

29.05.1.3 Eye specialist report detailing acuity, pathology and prognosis and low vision needs.

29.05.1.4 Child's IEP Team recommendation.

29.06 SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCESS TO ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

29.06.1 Local school districts must assess any child whose visual impairment adversely affects his/her educational performance as to the child's need for accessible instructional materials.

29.06.2 For the purpose of these regulations, the criteria stated in §29.05 shall be the minimum criteria for determining, a child's eligibility.

29.06.3 Local school districts may seek assistance for assessing a child's need for accessible instructional materials by calling the educational Services for Visually Impaired.

29.06.4 Following a determination that a child is eligible for accessible instructional materials, the certified educational vision consultant serving the local school district will approve the purchase of textbooks for each child determined eligible.

29.06.5 The certified educational vision consultant will authorize a completed book order form and transmit the form to the Instructional Resource Center.

29.07 COSTS

29.07.1 There shall be no charge to local school districts for the approved routine loan of accessible instructional materials, unless the materials are lost or are severely damaged.

29.07.2 Should a duplicate item be requested or should loaned materials be lost or sustain such damage as to render the materials unusable, the district will be billed for the costs associated with replacements.