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The Virginia Department of Education and AIM-VA have been working together to improve our eligibility in order to provide accessible instructional materials to more of our Virginia Students. Our new website shares information on how to get your Virginia school division started. You are going to LOVE reading with us!

Announcements



Spread the Word: AIM-VA's New Eligibility!

AIM-VA is happy to announce changes to the eligibility requirements for ordering accessible instructional materials. While it is still required for a student to have an IEP, changes have been made to the print disability category areas and the competent authorities who confirm them. The two-part requirements for students are outlined below.

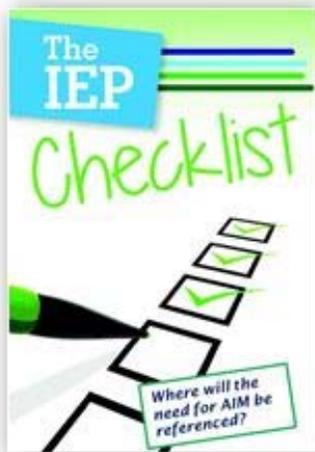
A student is eligible to receive AIM-VA services if they meet both of the following criteria:

1. Student has an IEP that indicates he may benefit from using accessible instructional materials (AIM).
2. Student has a print disability due to one of the following AIM-VA's NEW categories:

- *Low vision/Blindness*
- *Physical Disabilities*
- *Other Disabilities*

[Watch Video Here](#)

AIM-VA and the IEP



Documenting on the IEP

An indication that a student may benefit from using AIM for reading must be documented in the IEP. Each school division determines where this document is located.

Wording Samples	Placement Samples
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessible materials• Specialized formats• Text-to-Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present level of performance• Testing/classroom accommodations• Assistive technology considerations

[Read More Here](#)

Confirming a Print Disability

Does your student have a Print Disability?



AIM-VA provides materials to students who have Print Disabilities. The term *print disability* has been defined as a student who cannot effectively read print because of a visual, physical, perceptual, developmental, cognitive, or learning disability. *Competent authorities* confirm a student's print disability.

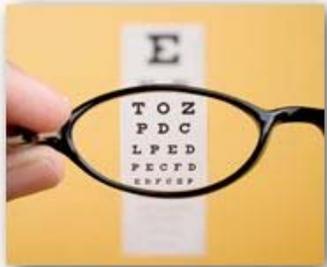
Who is the Competent Authority?

According to the new eligibility requirements, a competent authority no longer has to be a medical doctor. This means that a doctor's note is not required. Now, competent authorities must be identified by each school division for each of the 3 print disability categories.

Examples of competent authorities:

- *Special Education Teacher*
- *School Psychologist*
- *Occupational Therapist*

Knowledge at Noon



February is Visual Impairment Awareness Month

Join AIM-VA for a series of Webinars focused on Resources and Strategies for students with Visual Impairments. Each webinar will be held at noon and will run for a half hour. This month we are pleased to welcome guest speakers who will provide unique insight into AIM-VA for students who have VI. Please note that the final webinar on Low Vision Apps may very well be of interest and benefit to your students as well. Perhaps inviting them to join you in the webinar could be fun!

DBVI and AIM-VA
2/1/18

Deciding what Accessible Materials are Best for Students with VI.
2/20/18

AT & Apps for Student with VI.

2/28/18

[Register Here](#)

News You Can Use



AIM-VA's Large Print Library

As children grow and develop, stories are a magical part of a child's life. Reading provides opportunities for children to engage in discussions and build language skills. See the many stories available in the AIM-VA Library that tell a story about a person with a vision impairment and how they faced challenges within their life to add richness to the world.

[Read More Here](#)



AIM VA Help Desk

4400 University Drive, MS 1F2
Fairfax, VA 22030

Ph 866-926-1879
Fax 703-993-5149
Email aimva@gmu.edu

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AIM-VA is a service of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) through a grant to The Kellar Institute for Human disabilities at George Mason University.