

PATINS Project

Promoting Achievement through Technology and INstruction for all Students

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To: Directors of Special Education, Digital Rights Managers, Targeted Technical Assistance Teams, Teachers, and Case Conference Committees

From: PATINS Project's Indiana Center for Accessible Instructional Materials (ICAM)

Re: ICAM Large Print Materials Policy Change

Date: January 2, 2013

The PATINS Project's Indiana Center for Accessible Materials (ICAM) and the Indiana Education Resource Center are encouraging Case Conference Committees to consider the potential harmful effects on a student (or the quality of services that she/he needs in their educational setting) when considering the selection of large print as a specialized format of accessible instructional materials.

The harmful effects, if any, will depend on the individual student. Some potential harmful effects to consider when determining if large print is a suitable specialized format for accessing the curriculum are, but not limited to:

- Decreased access to full instructional opportunities;
- Diminished access to the full range of the curriculum;
- Lack of opportunities for social interaction;
- Decreased self-esteem;
- Stigmatization; and/or
- Isolation from peers in the educational setting.

Please note that the Case Conference Committee must now certify, on the ICAM Case Conference Forms, that potential harmful effects have been considered and that the determination of large print as the needed specialized format(s) is appropriate for the student. The ICAM Case Conference Forms have been revised to better guide Case Conference Teams in their decision-making regarding the possible use of large print as a specialized format. These forms are accessible from the ICAM web site and/or by following the link provided in the electronic version of the Indiana IEP. Once the Case Conference Committee has completed the forms, they should be attached to the IEP for documentation purposes.

The ICAM and the IERC also ask that the Case Conference Committee certify that a determination of large print specialized formats is based on the student's need to access the curriculum and will not be utilized for ISTEP ONLY (as stipulated in the accommodations guidelines section of the ISTEP Manual).

A possible alternative to large print formats may be accessible electronic versions (i.e., PDF, Word, NIMAS, etc.) of books, including those currently in the database and those newly ordered. The ICAM and the IERC encourages local educational agencies to consider usage of digital versions of textbooks that allow embedding of a variety of universal supports to make instructional materials even more accessible and usable. Contrast as well as font type and size can be tailored to individual student needs, and digital texts can be read on desktops, laptops, mobile phones and e-reader devices. These newer technologies empower students to determine which types of accommodations work best for their individualized learning styles, strengths and preferences on a given day.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions,

Sincerely,



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