



**AEA 9  
Superintendents' Meeting  
March, 2010**



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### **AP EXAM REIMBURSEMENT**

The State of Iowa will not be covering half of the Advanced Placement (AP) exam costs for students for the 2009-10 school year. A memo with this information was sent to school districts on August 28, 2009. The legislature did not allocate funds to defray a portion of each AP exam fee for students who do not qualify for the low-income funding reimbursement. Please communicate the information to appropriate staff so students affected by this will know they will need to pay full price for AP exams. AP reimbursement for the low-income students will be the same as in the past. Iowa Department of Education Consultant Rosanne Malek will be sending this information out to districts.

If you have any questions about AP reimbursement for low-income students, please contact Rosanne Malek (515.281.3199, [Rosanne.Malek@iowa.gov](mailto:Rosanne.Malek@iowa.gov)) or contact your AP Coordinators and/or High School Counselors.

### **ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (AIM) CD**

As indicated in the February Superintendent Notes, School Improvement Consultants will coordinate the delivery of AIM CDs to each AEA for each superintendent, as well as a few copies for each AEA. The CDs contain every document found on the Trueaim website (<http://trueaim.iowa.gov/>).

In most schools, print-based instructional materials, such as textbooks, are a prime way of delivering curricular content. For those who struggle to read because of physical, sensory, cognitive, or learning differences – such materials are not usable for learning. These students need Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) in order to access the general education curriculum. Such access is guaranteed in federal statutes, such as IDEA and NCLB, as well as Iowa's Rules of Special Education.

For additional information contact Steve Maurer at [steve.maurer@iowa.gov](mailto:steve.maurer@iowa.gov) or 515-281-3576.

### **THREE THINGS SCHOOLS SHOULD DO TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (AIM)**

1. Sign up your school district for a FREE Bookshare membership.
2. Add language to purchase orders requiring textbook publishers to develop a NIMAS fileset of the textbook(s) and send the file to the NIMAC.
3. If you need your textbooks converted to Braille, make sure the order is placed with the Iowa Department for the Blind no later than March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Here's why:

1. You can sign up ([www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org)) as a school district (institutional membership) and assign one or more staff members as a liaison with Bookshare. Membership for all K-12 schools in the US is **free**. Member schools can immediately start to use the services of Bookshare. You can also sign up your individual students within your school district on your district membership account so they can access Bookshare from home. Bookshare scans

books and converts them to digital text formats. Copyrighted digital books are available for download to people who submit proof of a disability that affects reading.

2. The National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) is an acquisition system for specialized formats of textbooks and related core instructional materials sold after July 18, 2006. The NIMAC is also a repository of electronic files of textbooks and core related instructional materials that are submitted directly by publishers. Districts **must** request the publishers to send these filesets to the NIMAC in their purchase order ([http://trueaim.iowa.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7&Itemid=7](http://trueaim.iowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7&Itemid=7) ). The Iowa Department for the Blind and Bookshare are the sole Authorized Users to NIMAC. Coordinating with these entities will enable students with disabilities who require AIM in specialized formats (Braille, large print, audio, and digital text) to receive AIM in a timely manner. Each time you acquire a new textbook for your school, a digital version (NIMAS format) will be deposited by the publisher into the NIMAC system. You may not need that text in an accessible format now, but you may need it in the future.
3. Converting textbooks into Braille is the most time consuming and expensive part of producing AIM. Some math and science textbooks converted to Braille produce very large volumes that may take many months to convert. By ordering your Braille materials early you increase the likelihood that students will receive AIM in a timely manner. In Iowa, students who need instructional materials in Braille, large print, audio, or digital text may qualify for services from the Iowa Department for the Blind (<http://www.idbonline.org/library/student-resources> and <http://www.idbonline.org/form/imc> )

Please visit the Trueaim website (<http://trueaim.iowa.gov/> ) or contact Steve Maurer at 515-281-3576 or [steve.maurer@iowa.gov](mailto:steve.maurer@iowa.gov) for further information.

## READINESS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR SCHOOLS

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS)’ Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center has announced the opening of a new **TA Center Web site**: <http://rems.ed.gov>.

In addition to the overall redesign, two new high-level features have been added:

- The online **School Emergency Management Course Series**, which is a new tool we are offering to provide emergency management training for schools. This online training series is NOW AVAILABLE on the <http://rems.ed.gov> Web site at: [http://rems.ed.gov/index.php?page=online\\_courses](http://rems.ed.gov/index.php?page=online_courses)
- An online **Resource Repository** made up of up-to-date tools, templates, resources, approaches, and forms from real-world users and organizations to assist in a broad range of emergency management issues for both K-12 and higher education audiences. The REMS Resource Repository serves as a virtual library of relevant resources to assist LEAs and IHEs as they engage in the emergency management and planning process. The materials are intended to serve as examples that should be modified and adapted, as needed, by local communities. You may access this new Resource Repository at: [http://rems.ed.gov/index.php?page=resources\\_Repository](http://rems.ed.gov/index.php?page=resources_Repository).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

March 1	Special Education Balances(verify final LEA balances with Department of Management) Questions may be directed to <a href="mailto:Steve.Crew@iowa.gov">Steve.Crew@iowa.gov</a> , (515) 281-6285
March 2-3	AEA 9 Accreditation Visit (Document Review Portion)
March 8	SBRC Meeting
March 11	Iowa State Board of Education Meeting
March 24	Finance Round Table
March 25	Iowa Special Education Law Conference  For more information contact <a href="mailto:Michelle.Ray@iowa.gov">Contact Michelle Ray, (515)-281-5494</a> or <a href="mailto:Michelle.Ray@iowa.gov">Michelle.Ray@iowa.gov</a>
March 30	Open Enrollment Deadline for receiving district to act on timely-filed open enrollment application

You can view a complete Iowa Department of Education calendar of events at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/calendar/calendar.html>