

Accessible Educational Materials in the IEP: Why, Where, and How

National Center on Accessible Educational Materials (AEM Center)



2023 OSEP LEADERSHIP AND PROJECT DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE





2023 OSEP Leadership and Project Directors' Conference



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(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1221e-3 and 3474)

Presenters

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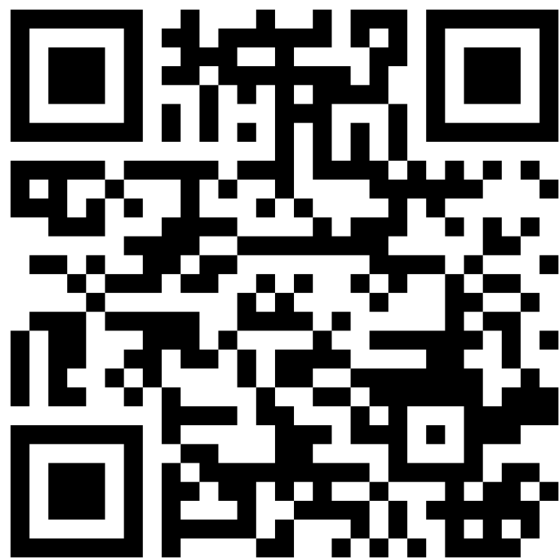
Learning Objectives

- Participants will be able to:
 - Define accessible educational materials (AEM).
 - Explain the importance of including AEM in the IEPs of students who require them.
 - Discuss locations in the IEP where it may be acceptable to refer to a student's need for and use of AEM and related technologies.
 - Use freely available resources to prepare themselves and others, including parents and caregivers, to develop IEPs that address the need for AEM.



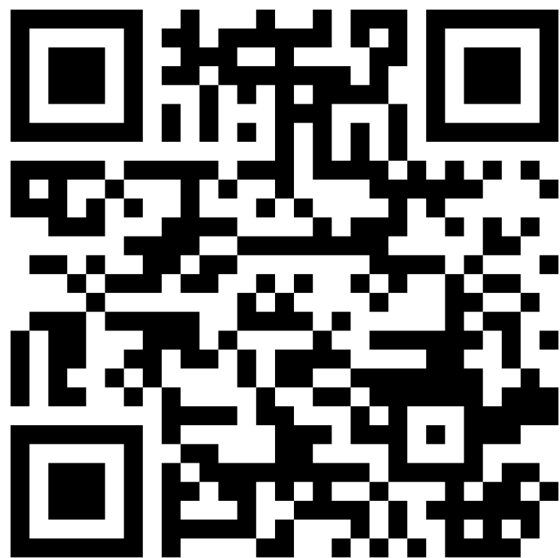
About You, Poll 1

Go to [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and use
code 2736 6980



About You, Poll 2


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Homebase Doc

bit.ly/AEM-OSEP23



 National Center on Accessible Educational Materials

 CAST | Until learning has no limits

Homebase for AEM in the IEP: Why, Where, and How
2023 OSEP Leadership & Project Directors' Conference

[Session Topics](#)
[Supplemental Resources](#)
[Follow and Reach Out to the AEM Center](#)

[Link to slide deck](#)

Short link to this Google Doc: bit.ly/AEM-OSEP23

Session Topics

- About the [National AEM Center](#)
- AEM Center's [AEM in the IEP Guide](#)
- Georgia Department of Education - "Take A Minute" Campaign
 - [PDF flyer on the GaDOE website](#)
 - [Episode on the Accessible Learning Experience podcast](#)
- Developing a shared understanding of "accessible" materials and technologies
 - See [Defining Accessibility](#) on the AEM Center website for more information
- When retrofitting is necessary
 - "Accessible Format" and "Eligible Person"
 - See [About Accessible Formats](#) and the [Chafee Amendment](#) on the AEM Center website for more information
 - Determination process for students who may need accessible formats
 - See [Decision-making and Accessible Formats](#) and the [AEM Navigator](#) on the AEM Center website for more information
- Including AEM in students' IEPs
 - Considering AEM in the IEP for Monica, Juan, or Alie
 -

Supplemental Resources

- [Laws & Guidance from U.S. Department of Education/OSERS: A Guide to the IEP](#)



About the National AEM Center

Goal & Technical Assistance



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Goal of the AEM Center

To build the capacity of states, districts, and other agencies to provide and support the use of high-quality accessible educational materials (AEM) and accessible technologies – in a timely manner - for all learners who need them from PreK-12 to postsecondary.

aem.cast.org



**National Center on
Accessible
Educational
Materials**



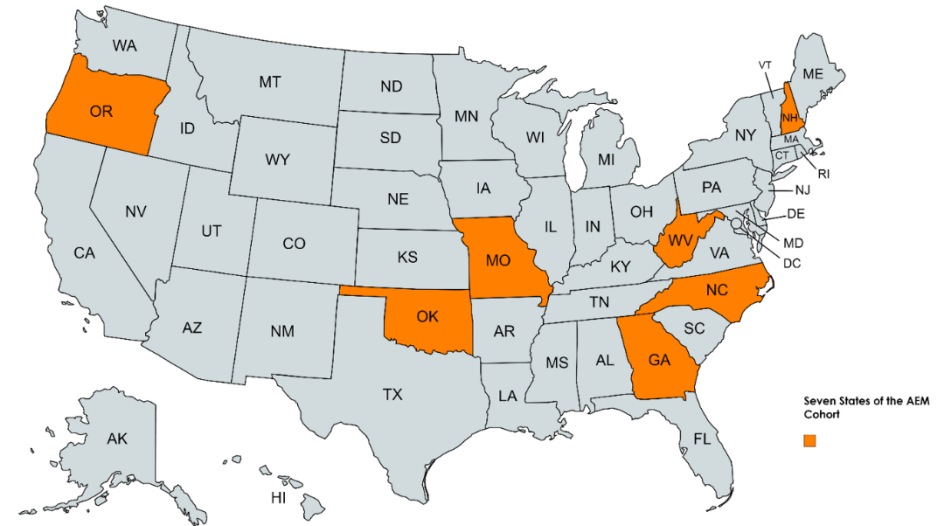
CAST
Until
learning
has no
limits



National AEM Cohort

Intensive TA for seven states to inform changes in policy, program, practice, and operations in SEAs and LEAs.

- Georgia
- Missouri
- New Hampshire
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- West Virginia



Let's "Take a Minute" to Learn from Georgia's AEM Cohort Team





Georgia's Take a Minute Initiative



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Georgia's "Take a Minute" Initiative

Georgia Department of Education
Marietta City Schools
Paulding County Schools
Tift County Schools

Take a Minute for AT and AEM September 2021




What is "Take a Minute"?

- "Take a Minute" is a simple initiative to support IEP teams when discussing assistive technology (AT), and accessible educational materials (AEM) during IEP meetings.
- The goal of "Take a Minute" is for IEP teams to briefly discuss or "Take a Minute" in the Special Factors section to talk about a student's need for (AT) and/or (AEM).

Questions for the IEP Team

1. Were there issues in present levels that address how your student's disability affects his or her ability to be involved and progress in the general education curriculum related to reading, writing, communication, or any other areas?
2. Will AT support the deficit areas addressed in the present levels?
3. Can AEM (braille, larger print, audio or digital text) provide access so the student can better comprehend print and or digital text?



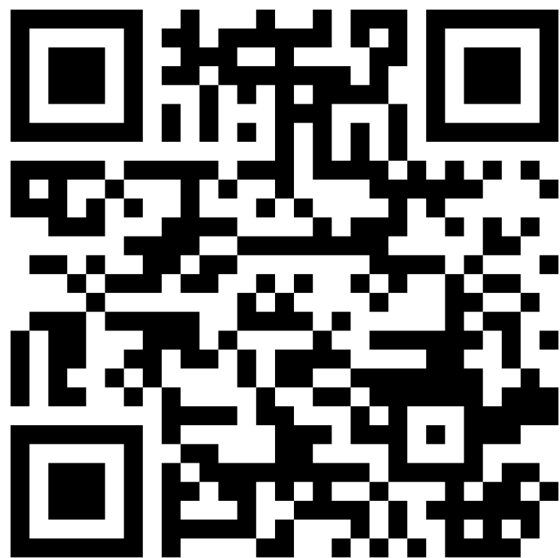


Behind “Take a Minute”



Are AEM (or AIM) in Your Agency's IEP Form?

Go to [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and use
code 2736 6980



Developing a Shared Understanding of AEM

Definition & Application



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Voices from Learners



Game-changing
technology.

- Technology, for me,
is probably my best friend.

Play (k) **CAST** | Until learning has no limits

0:04 / 4:10

CC

The video player interface includes a play button, a progress bar, a volume icon, a closed captions (CC) icon, a settings gear icon, a full screen icon, and a refresh icon. The video content features a blue background with white text and a black box highlighting the word 'technology'.



"Accessibility"

A person with a disability can...

acquire the same information
engage in the same interactions
enjoy the same services

in an equally effective,
equally integrated manner,
with substantially
equivalent ease of use

...as a person without a disability.

-U.S. Department of Education & U.S. Department of Justice, 2010

“Accessible Educational Materials (AEM)”

Accessible educational materials (AEM) are print- and technology-based educational materials, including printed and electronic textbooks and related core materials that are designed or enhanced in a way that makes them usable across the widest range of learner variability, regardless of format (e.g., print, digital, graphic, audio, video).

AEM include “accessible formats” as defined under U.S. copyright law.



AEM in Action: Tyler's Science Book



The Interdependence of AEM

Material

Information or content in any format (e.g., text, video, audio, graphic). A material is accessible when it's perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust (POUR).

Technology

Hardware or software that delivers the material to learners (e.g., laptop, LMS, video player). Technology is accessible when **directly usable without AT** or **made usable with AT**.

Assistive Technology (AT)

Hardware or software used by students with disabilities that is matched to their functional needs (e.g., physical, sensory, learning, communication).



How AEM Works for Tyler

Material

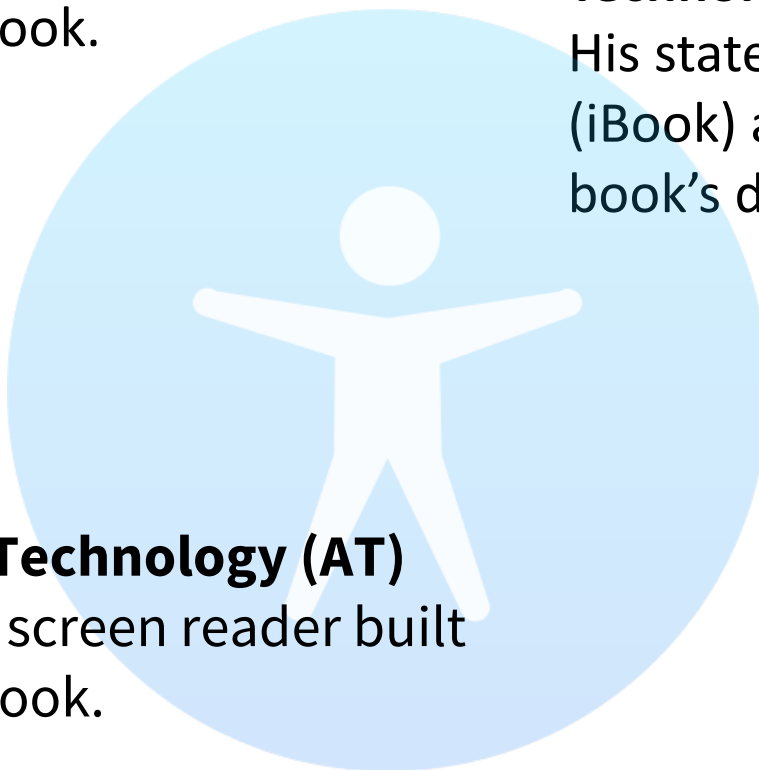
His digital science book.

Technology

His state-issued laptop (iBook) and the science book's digital platform.

Assistive Technology (AT)

VoiceOver screen reader built into the iBook.



When Retrofitting Is Necessary

Accessible Formats



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Materials Can Be Designed *or* Enhanced to Be Accessible

Accessible educational materials (AEM) are print- and technology-based educational materials, including ***printed and electronic textbooks*** and related core materials that are designed ***or enhanced*** in a way that makes them usable across the widest range of learner variability, regardless of format (e.g., print, digital, graphic, audio, video).



“Accessible Format”

[A]n alternative manner or form that gives an eligible person access to the work when the copy or phonorecord in the accessible format is used exclusively by the eligible person to permit him or her to have access as feasibly and comfortably as a person without such disability.

-17 U.S.C. § 121 (d) (1)

Examples: Text-based copyrighted materials converted to digital text (structured and marked up), human-narrated audio, large print, braille, and tactile graphics.



“Eligible Person”

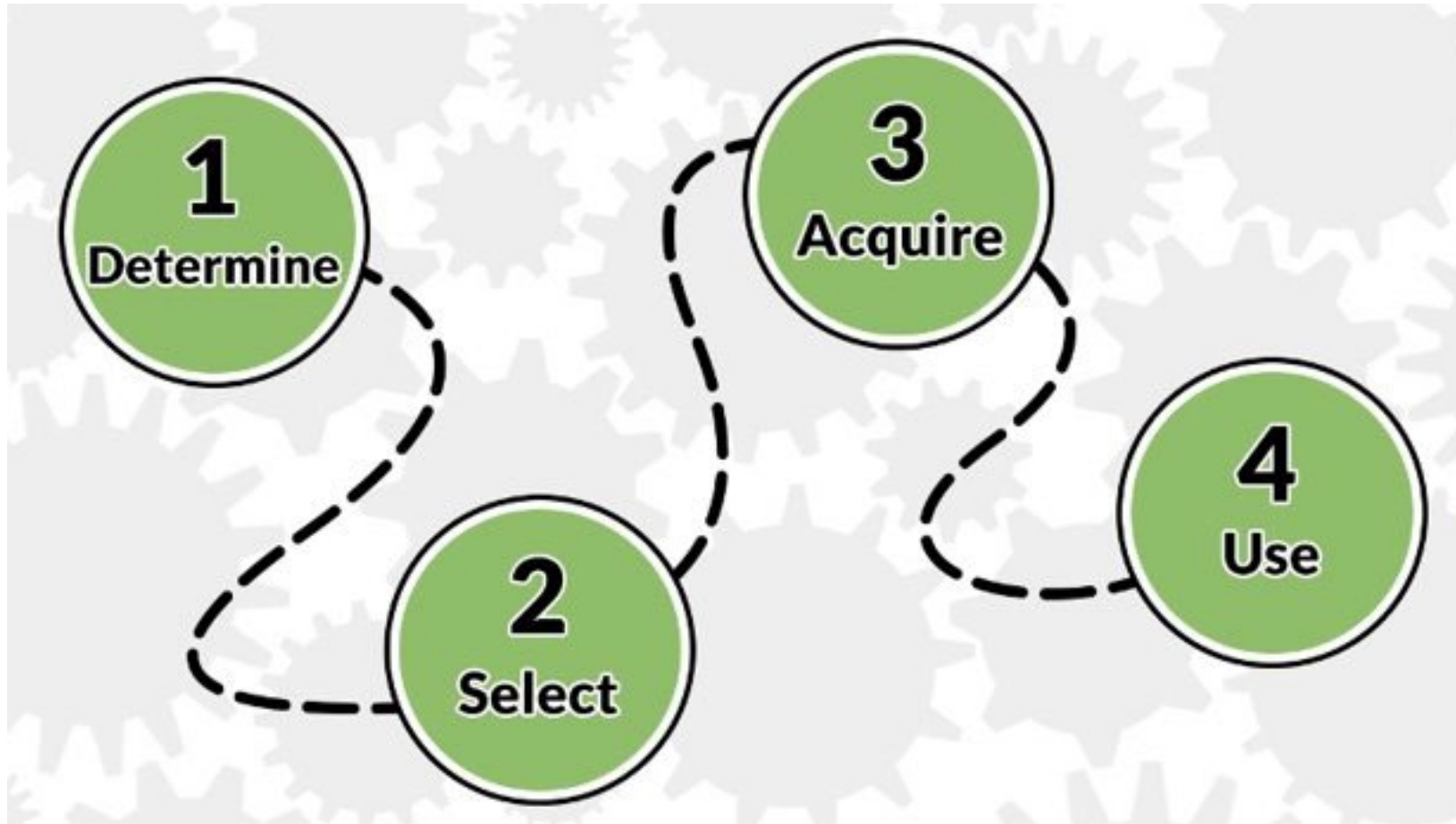
(A)n individual who, regardless of any other disability—

- (A) is blind;
- (B) has a visual impairment or perceptual or reading disability that cannot be improved to give visual function substantially equivalent to that of a person who has no such impairment or disability and so is unable to read printed works to substantially the same degree as a person without an impairment or disability; or
- (C) is otherwise unable, through physical disability, to hold or manipulate a book or to focus or move the eyes to the extent that would be normally acceptable for reading.

-17 U.S.C. § 121 (d) (3)



4-Step Decision-Making Process for Students Who Need Accessible Formats



Accessible Formats = A Subset of AEM

AEM

- **Designed or enhanced** in a way that makes the material ***usable across the widest range of learner variability***, regardless of format (e.g., print, digital, graphic, audio, video).
- Includes materials that are designed to be accessible from the beginning for all learners, in addition to accessible formats.

Accessible Formats

- Enhanced to be ***used exclusively by the eligible person***.
- Materials that are retrofitted for an individual learner.



Meet Students Who Need AEM in the IEP

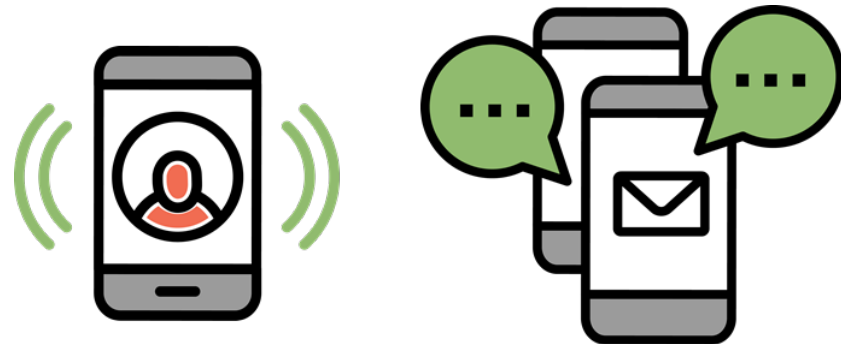
- Juan
- Monica
- Alie
- Marco

bit.ly/students-AEM-IEP



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