



Office of the



State Superintendent of Education

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Thursday, May 19, 2011

810 First Street, NE

3rd Floor

Washington, DC 20002

4:30PM – 6:00PM

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

810 First Street, NE

3rd Floor

Washington, DC 20002

6:00pm – 8:00 pm

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), Division of Special Education, will hold public hearings to discuss a proposed state policy, “National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS).”

As the state education agency (SEA), OSSE is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to adopt NIMAS for the provision of instructional materials to blind persons or other persons with print disabilities.

The proposed policy was posted for public comment on Thursday, May 12, 2011. Two public hearings will be held Thursday, May 19, 2011 and Wednesday, May 25, 2011 on the proposed policy. The comment period begins Thursday, May 12, 2011 and concludes Monday, June 13, 2011. All comments received by 5PM June 13, 2011 will be considered.

The following summary provides an overview of the proposed policy. Please note that this overview is provided for informational purposes only. Persons are encouraged to read the proposed policy for full detail.



National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)

- Provides notice to local education agencies (LEAs) regarding the adoption of the NIMAS;
- Addresses proper coordination with the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC), a national repository of textbooks and related printed materials;
- Identifies the authorized users for the District of Columbia;
- Defines timely manner related to the provision of instruction materials in accessible formats;
- Provides question and answer (Q&A) resources from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP); and
- Identifies technical assistance and supports for two national technical assistance centers to directly support LEAs, parents, teachers and students.

Persons wishing to review the proposed policy may access them on the OSSE webpage at www.osse.dc.gov under Special Education Programs. The proposed policies as well as all of OSSE's special education policies and regulations can also be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Individuals wishing to testify at the hearing should contact Desirée Brown, State Advisory Panel Coordinator and Public Outreach Specialist, at 202-741-0271 or by e-mail at desiree.brown@dc.gov no later than 5PM on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 to be added to the witness list for the public hearing scheduled for May 19, 2011 or no later than 5PM Monday, May 23, 2011 for the hearing scheduled for Wednesday May 25, 2011. Each individual presenting in person will be limited to five (5) minutes in an effort to allow all individuals an opportunity to be heard. Individuals representing an organization will be limited to a total presentation time of seven (7) minutes.

Individuals who wish to submit comments as part of the official record should send copies of the written testimony and statements no later than 5PM on June 13, 2011 for proposed policy on NIMAS:

Tameria Lewis, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education
c/o Desirée Brown
Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Division of Special Education
810 1st St. NE - 5th Floor



Office of the



State Superintendent of Education

Washington, DC 20002

or

e-mail to osse.publiccomment@dc.gov

Individuals who do not register with OSSE prior to the hearing may testify based upon a first-come first-serve basis as time permits within the timeframes announced for each hearing. On-site assistance with registration will be available prior to each hearing.

Individuals may request an accommodation for a physical disability or language access in order to participate in the public hearing by contacting Desirée Brown no later than 2 PM Friday, May 13, 2011 for the May 19, 2011 public hearing or no later than 2PM on May 20, 2011 for the May 25, 2011 public hearing.