Understanding Accessible Educational Materials (AEM)

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Presenter

Stacy Duffy

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Amy Snow

- Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist
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Learning Outcomes

1. I will develop an awareness of the legal requirements around Accessible Educational Materials (AEM).
2. I will understand the IEP team decision making process for when a student qualifies for Accessible Educational Materials (AEM).
3. I will learn about resources available to acquire Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) in a timely manner.
4. I will understand where to find next steps learning opportunities around Accessible Educational Materials (AEM).

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What are Accessible Educational Materials?

- The National AEM Center defines Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) as:

  "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."

- Video: [The Disability is the Medium](#): David Rose, the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) Chief Scientist

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Access to the Learning Goal

Goal: Identify key points

Who is eligible to receive AEM?

An 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.

DPI Update Bulletin 20.02

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Who can certify eligibility?

Disability	Certifying Professionals (Examples)
Visual Impairment such as blindness or low vision	- teacher of the visually impaired - special education teacher - family doctor - ophthalmologist/optometrist - National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
Physical disability, which affects the ability to read print such as the inability to hold a book and turn pages	- resource specialist, - special education teacher - physical therapist - family doctor or other medical professional
Learning disability that affects the ability to read standard print	- special education teacher, dyslexia, or resource specialist - school psychologist - clinical psychologist with a background in learning disabilities - family doctor - psychiatrist

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Questions for IEP Teams to Consider the Need for AEM

Is the student able to access, use, and derive meaning from age or grade level standard printed text?

Print Disability Indicators:

- The student cannot decode letters and words at or near grade level;

- The student cannot read with fluency at or near grade level;

- The student cannot see the information;

- The student cannot hold the book and turn its pages

WCASS Guide for IEP teams: Supporting Students with Print Disability

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Coming Soon from The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

- AEM Decision Tree for IEP Teams
- AEM Next Steps Guidance Document
- AEM Website
- AEM Webinar Series (see slide #38 for details)
  - AEM in Wisconsin; Are you ready?
  - Providing AEM; What type of AEM is needed?
  - Providing AEM; How do you acquire and use materials in your systems?
  - Providing AEM; How do you progress monitor?

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The Student Qualifies for AEM; What Now?

IDEA AEM Requirements

When an IEP team determines there is a print disability, then:

- IDEA Requires:
    - -timely manner (at the same time as provided to peers)
    - -accessible format (usable)
    - -instruction for use
    - -training for staff and families

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Accessible Formats

- An 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 the individual to have access as feasibly and comfortably as a person without such disability.

- [National AEM Center: About Accessible Formats](#)

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Acquiring AEM

School districts can acquire AEM through:

1. Non-profit Accessible Media Producers (Bookshare, Learning Ally, and Louis Database) that operate in the U.S. under a copyright exemption and are able to make books available to individuals with print disabilities.
2. Directly from publishers
3. Through the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center (NIMAC):
   a. Contact the Wisconsin AEM Center or WCBVI AEM Center for assistance

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Bookshare Overview

- Bookshare books are usually text files or DAISY text files, though some have recently become available as audio files read by human readers.
- Books are navigable by page, chapter and section in DAISY format.
- Qualifying students can be added to an organization or can apply for their own free individual membership.
  - This membership remains free as long as the individual is enrolled as a student, whether at a K-12 or post-secondary institution.
- Bookshare has a variety of titled ranging from pleasure reading to textbooks.

Bookshare Eligibility

- The student <u>must</u> have a documented print disability, which may include but not be limited to blindness, a learning disability, or have physical limitations that make holding a physical book impractical/impossible.
- Students may have two accounts, one through their school district or CESA and a personal account (see previous slide)
  - It is recommended that students who may wish to continue on to post-secondary programs acquire a personal account at some point in high school or perhaps sooner. This will allow them to practice downloading their own books and recreational reading outside of school

Accessing Bookshare Content 1 of 2

Bookshare books are accessible across multiple devices and various formats including braille files, text only files, or Word files. They can also be accessed and read in a variety of apps. Here are several ways to access material:

So Many Ways to Read! (Downloadable PDF)

- Web Reader
    - Web Reader Downloadable PDF
    - Web Reader Short YouTube Demo
    - Web Reader and Snap&Read (YouTube Demo)
    - Web Reader and Read&Write (YouTube Demo)

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- On an iPad or Tablet:
  - [iBooks on iOS devices (YouTube)](#)
  - [Capti Voice on the Computer (YouTube Demo)](#)
  - [Capti Voice in the iOS App (YouTube Demo)](#)
  - [Voice Dream Reader (YouTube Demo)](#)
  - [Dolphin Easy Reader (YouTube Demo)](#)
  - [Read2Go (iOS) YouTube Demo](#)
  - [Read2Go (iOS) Word Document](#)
  - [GoRead (Android) YouTube Demo](#)
  - [GoRead (Android) PDF](#)

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Getting Started with Bookshare

- General Resources
  - [Training Resources Library](#)
  - [Reading methods listed by Preference based on qualifying disability](#)
  - [Find a Reading Tool](#)
- For Educators
  - [Educator getting started - creating an organization](#)
  - [How to get individual memberships for students](#)
- Individual Memberships
  - [Individual Membership Application](#)
  - [Submitting Proof of Disability FAQs](#)
  - [Submitting Proof of Disability Remotely](#)

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Learning Ally Overview

- Books are read by live readers, though some books may also have a text component that allows the user to read along.

  - Live readers may be paid readers or volunteers.

  - For longer textbooks, there may be more than one reader. Students sometimes get confused by this, so informing them of this possibility can help.

- Books are navigable by page, chapter and section in DAISY format.

- The Learning Ally Library includes mostly textbooks and academic titles as well as classic novels and books that are often read in English and Language Arts classes.

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Learning Ally Eligibility

- The student <u>must</u> have a documented print disability, which may include but not be limited to blindness, a learning disability, or have physical limitations that make holding a physical book impractical/impossible.

- Unlike Bookshare, Learning Ally has a cost associated with membership for both institutions and individuals. Please see their website for details.

- Some organizations have institutional memberships, allowing them to add all students with a qualifying disability.

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Accessing Learning Ally Content

Learning Ally books are accessible and available across multiple Devices/Platforms.

Unlike Bookshare, Learning Ally has a dedicated app for each platform (iOS, Android, Windows, Chrome, and Mac). It is not available on e-readers such as Kindle.

- **On an iPad or Tablet:**
    - [Android/Google Play (Link to App in Play Store)](#)
    - [iOS (Link to App in iTunes Store)](#)
- **On a Mac, PC, or Chromebook:**
    - [Windows (Link to Software Download)](#)
        - [Learning Ally Link: Getting Started PDF](#)
    - [Mac App Store (Link to Mac App Store)](#)
    - [Chrome Web Store (Link to Chrome Extension)](#)

- General Resources
  - [Learning Ally - Who Qualifies and How do I Sign up?](#)
  - [Learning Ally Link: Getting Started (PDF)](#)
  - [Learning Ally: Getting Started FAQ](#)
- Teacher Ally and Organizational Membership
  - [Getting Started with Teacher Ally](#)
  - [Teacher Ally Quick Guide (PDF)](#)
  - [Educator getting started - creating an organization](#)
  - [How to get individual memberships for students in Teacher Ally (PDF)](#)
  - [Educator Webinars](#)

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- For Individuals and Families
  - [Learning Ally Overview for Individuals and Families](#)
  - [Getting Started (for individuals and families)](#)
  - [Learning Ally Individual Membership Application](#)
  - [Certification of Eligibility form](#)

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Louis Database

From the Louis Database Main Page (https://louis.aph.org/)

"*Louis* contains information on accessible materials produced by over 75 organizations throughout the United States and Canada. These materials include educational materials in braille, large print, audio, and electronic file format.

Our aim is to provide maximum visibility to accessible educational materials and to meet that goal, the Louis search also includes information from these national repositories."

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Louis Database Search Features

- Search by ISBN, title, author, or keyword
- Narrow your results by:
    - Collection (APH, NIMAC, Recreational Reading
    - Type (braille, large print, efile)
    - Format Detail (braille only - EBAE, UEB, Single sided, single or double spaced, etc)
    - Publisher
    - Location (Bookshare, Learning Ally, NIMAC)

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Louis Database Results

Each record in the results of a Louis Database search includes:

- AMP (Accessible Media Producer): the agency that has made the book available
- Accessible format (braille, large print, audio recording, etc)
- ISBN and publisher information
- Reading level
- Contact information for the agency providing the material
  - This is especially important if the user is looking for braille

Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL)

The Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library's website contains a lot of useful information, including but not limited to the following:

- Application and eligibility information
- Information on services provided
- Access to the online catalog

Please note that WTBBL is not a registered AMP and does not show up in the Louis Plus Database search. When searching for material, please use the site listed above.

WTBBL Overview

- Books are performed by live readers. Many books are comercial audiobooks that have been professionally recorded.
- The majority of books are recreational reading or classic novels. There are few, if any, textbooks.
- Books may be read on desktop machines or with braille displays on loan from the library. Content may also be downloaded in the BARD app on iOS and Android devices
- Content is available in audio format or in electronic braille.
- Users may request that books be sent to them via US mail and they may be returned in the same way.
- Membership and services are free to all qualifying individuals.

WISCONSIN **TALKING BOOK**
AND BRAILLE LIBRARY

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Important Eligibility Information about WTBBL

WTBBL expanded its eligibility categories and certifying authorities in January of 2021. Now individuals whose disability is caused by processing disorders rather than only organic and physical disorders qualify for membership.

Qualifying disabilities include:
- Visual impairment or legal blindness
- Physical disability
- Reading disability

NEW: School psychologists, reading specialists, librarians, and educators may now serve as "certifying authorities" in addition to doctors or other medical staff

WCBVI AEM Center

- [Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impared (WCBVI) AEM Center](#)
  - Many AEM services are available to public, private, home schools, and agencies providing educational programs for prekindergarten through 12th grade children and students who are blind or visually impaired.
  - Services provided include:
    - Central depository of braille and large print textbooks and specialized educational aids
    - K-12 textbooks and educational materials for qualifying children and students through funds provided by the American Printing House (APH) Federal Quota Program
    - Textbook research, information, and referral

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IMPORTANT ORDERING INFORMATION

As soon as you know what classes your student is taking, you should be starting your textbook journey. **A new braille transcription can take a year to finish, and a new large print can take a month**. If you wait, you will not meet FAPE!

Textbooks Available from APH using Quota Funds

If the vendor is APH and the student is on the APH Census, the textbook can be purchased with quota funds.
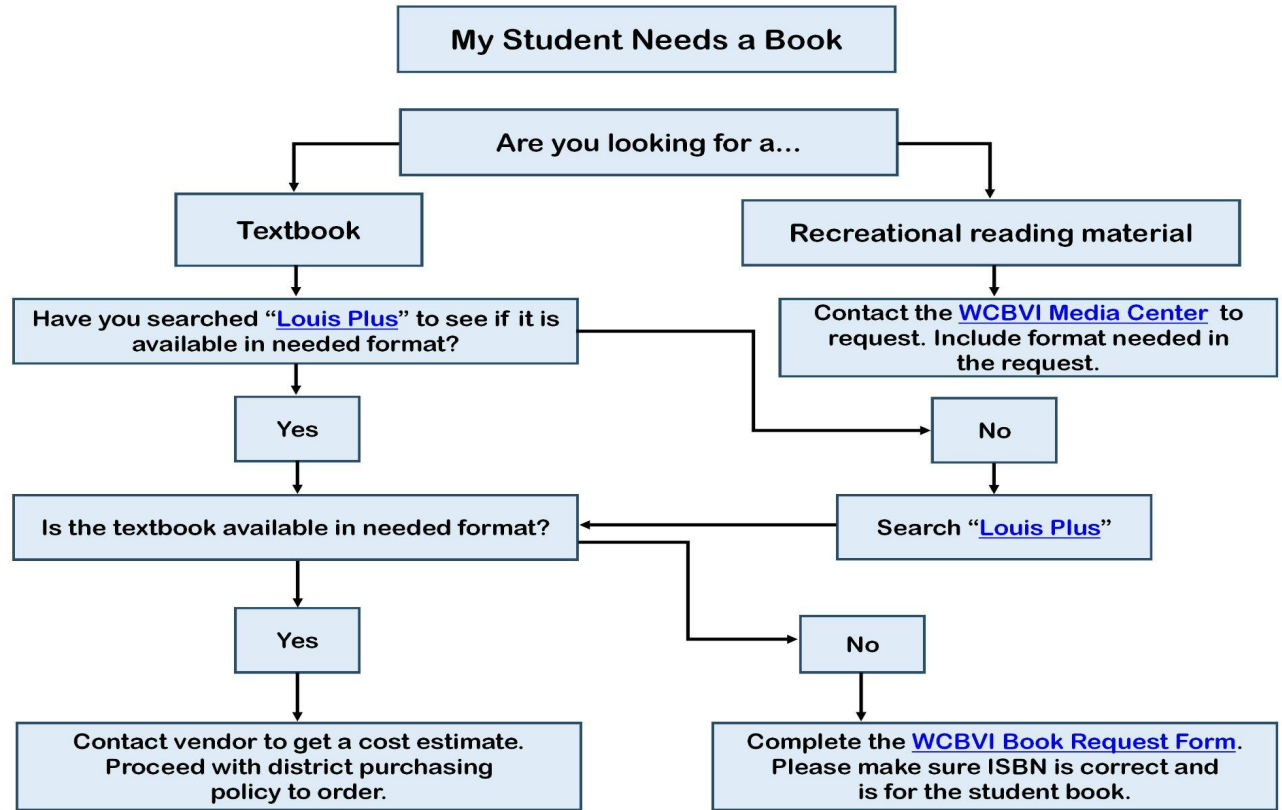
"Quota funds are distributed through information gathered by the Federal Quota Census. The funds are made available to students in an educational program learning at less than a college level." Materials are found at APH.

Fill out and submit the [Textbook Request Form](#) and the APH textbook will be loaned to you for the upcoming school year.

WCBVI AEM Flowchart

Please see the [textbook request process document on the WCBVI website](#) for a text friendly version.

My Student Needs a Book

Are you looking for a…

- Textbook
- Recreational reading material

Textbook path:
Have you searched "Louis Plus" to see if it is available in needed format?
→ Yes
→ Is the textbook available in needed format?
→ Yes → Contact vendor to get a cost estimate. Proceed with district purchasing policy to order.
→ No → Complete the WCBVI Book Request Form. Please make sure ISBN is correct and is for the student book.

Recreational reading material path:
Contact the WCBVI Media Center to request. Include format needed in the request.
→ No → Search "Louis Plus"
→ Is the textbook available in needed format?

Tips for ordering Textbooks from WCBVI

The following applies to vendors other than APH or for students not on the current APH Quota Registry:

- Once your textbook request is complete, you will receive contact information for all vendors listed in the Louis Database that carry the text you requested. Please arrange procurement and payment with vendors directly.
- WCBVI's AEM Center is a resource only and does not order the textbook or process your payment.
- Please see the textbook request process document on the WCBVI website

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Recreational Reading Options at WCBVI

- WCBVI's AEM Center can assist with finding vendors for textbooks, but if your student needs/wants recreational reading materials, please contact the WCBVI Media Center via email at michelle.rueckert@wcbvi.k12.wi.us or to browse our collection, click here to access the WCBVI online catalog.
- There are many braille and large print books available to check out.
- When borrowing materials from the Media Center, please do not request books or materials meant to meet FAPE requirements.

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Wisconsin AEM Center

- [Wisconsin AEM Center](#)
- [Submit a Request](#)
  - "How to Submit a Request" Support Video on Website
- Contact:
  - Donna Hutson
  - Email: donna.hutson@cesa2.org

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Next Steps

- Mark Your Calendar for DPI's Upcoming AEM Webinar Series:

  - November 30, 2022: [AEM in Wisconsin; Are you ready?](#)

  - December 12, 2022: Providing AEM; What type of AEM is needed?

  - January 30, 2023: Providing AEM; How do you acquire and use materials in your systems?

  - March 1, 2023: Providing AEM; How do you progress monitor?

- All webinars will be from 4:00pm-5:00pm.

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Next Steps

- Join [Assistive Technology Forward's Community of Practice](#)
  - Free Micro-Credentials (including AEM)
  - Community of Practice Meetings
  - AT Video Resource Library (AEM Resources)
  - Receive AT Monthly Update
- Explore AEM Resources:
  - [The National Center on AEM](#),
  - [Wisconsin AEM Center](#)
  - [WCBVI AEM Center](#)
  - [Bookshare](#)
  - [Learning Ally](#)
  - [Louis Database](#)

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Thank you!

Questions?

Contact:

- Stacy Duffy: stacy.duffy@cesa2.org
- Amy Snow: amy.snow@wcbvi.k12.wi.us

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