

Who is Eligible for AIM-VA Services?

A student is eligible to receive AIM-VA services if they meet both of the following criteria:

1. The student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that indicates the student may benefit from using alternative print materials for reading.
2. The student has a **print disability** due to one of the following:

Low Vision/Blindness

A student who is blind or has low vision and who is unable to read standard print is eligible for AIM-VA if a competent authority confirms that the student is legally blind or has a significant problem accessing standard text.

*Examples of
Competent
Authorities*

- Teacher of the Visually Impaired
- Special Education Teacher
- Family Doctor
- Ophthalmologist
- Optometrist
- National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped or similar government body outside of the United States.

Physical Disabilities

A student with a physical disability who is unable to access standard print is eligible for AIM-VA if a competent authority confirms that the disability significantly interferes with reading.

*Examples of
Competent
Authorities*

- Resource Specialist
- Special Education Teacher
- Physical/Occupational Therapist
- Family Doctor or Other Medical Professional

Other Disabilities

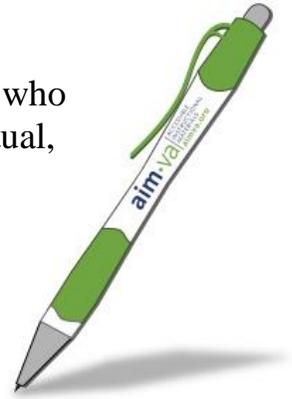
A student with a disability is eligible for AIM-VA if a competent authority confirms that the disability significantly interferes with reading.

*Examples of
Competent
Authorities*

- Special Education Teacher
- Licensed Specialist (SLP, OT, PT, etc.)
- School Psychologist
- Clinical Psychologist
- Family Doctor
- Psychiatrist
- Neurologist

What are these new terms?

- A ‘Student with a **print disability**’ has been defined as, a student who cannot effectively read print because of a visual, physical, perceptual, developmental, cognitive, or learning disability.
- A student with a disability such as dyslexia, ADHD, intellectual disability, etc., would fall within the ‘**Other Disabilities**’ category if confirmed as having a print disability by a competent authority.
- ‘**Competent authorities**’ confirm a student’s print disability within one of the categories; Low Vision/Blindness, Physical Disabilities, or Other Disabilities. School personnel such as special education teachers, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, and/or school psychologists may be appointed.



What about Testing Accommodations?

Accommodations are aligned to student disability and based on individual needs. While accommodations for instruction and assessments are integrally intertwined, there may be eligible AIM-VA students who qualify for instructional accommodations in the classroom and not in testing environments.

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/participation/guidelines_for_special_test_accommodations.pdf

How is eligibility implemented in my division?

Each school division determines how eligibility is implemented within the VDOE guidelines outlined above. School divisions will need to identify:

Where the need for alternate print materials is to be referenced in student IEPs?

Who constitutes a competent authority for each of the three print disability categories?

How the confirmation of print disability under a specific category will be documented?

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