



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children
EC Coordinators, Charter Schools
Directors, State Operated Programs
Directors, Residential Facilities

FROM: Sherry H. Thomas, Director *SH*

DATE: February 28, 2020

SUBJECT: Accessible Media Producers in NC

IDEA requires state and local education agencies to ensure that textbooks and related core instructional materials are provided to students with print disabilities in specialized formats in a timely manner. In an effort to help expedite acquiring specialized formats needed for some students, the Exceptional Children Division is launching a statewide pilot program for students requiring braille.

Your LEA is invited to participate in the pilot program entitled, *AMP Up for Braille NC*. An "AMP", or Accessible Media Producer, has the ability to access files, once downloaded, through the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) to convert digital files to braille. NIMAC was created from IDEA 2004 and is a federally funded, online file repository. Currently, textbooks and printed educational materials are available through NIMAC; however, proposed federal legislation is seeking to make digital materials available as well. With more AMPs across the state, the availability and readiness of materials to braille readers in NC would increase and LEAs could potentially reduce their costs for embossed braille materials.

A webinar will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2020, from 3:00-4:00 PM to review elements of the pilot program and how your LEA can participate. Suggested webinar participants include the EC Director/Coordinator, Teacher of the Visually Impaired and/or Brailist, or designee. Please register for the webinar by using this link, <http://bit.ly/AMPupforBraille>. Once registered, a confirmation email will be generated with instructions for connecting to the webinar.

Questions related to the *AMP Up for Braille NC* pilot program should be directed to Crystal Patrick, crystal.patrick@dpi.nc.gov. We look forward to vast participation in this initiative and improving outcomes for students with visual impairments using braille.

SV/cp

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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