



# Wakulla County School Board Exceptional Student Education Proof of Disability for NIMAS Eligibility

Please complete this application for a student who is eligible under IDEA and is unable to read print materials in a normal manner and has been certified as having a print disability by a competent authority.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone contact(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Student number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate the disability preventing this student from reading regular printed material. See definitions below. Check only one:

\_\_\_\_\_ Physical Disability

\_\_\_\_\_ Reading Disability

**Physically Disabled:** Student who are unable to use standard printed material because of physical limitations (i.e. students who cannot hold printed textbooks and turn its pages) as determined by a competent authority. A competent authority is defined to include: doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, ophthalmologist, optometrists, registered nurses, therapists, and professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or welfare agencies (e.g. social workers, case workers, counselors, rehabilitation teachers and superintendents). Individuals providing evaluative data related to a student's specialized instruction and related services must be licensed or certified to practice in Florida.

**Reading Disabled:** Person certified by a competent authority as having a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction of sufficient severity to prevent reading printed materials in a normal manner. A competent authority must be a doctor of medicine, or osteopathy who may consult with practitioners in other disciplines. Individuals providing evaluative data related to a student's specialized instruction and related services must be licensed or certified to practice in Florida.

I certify that the above named applicant requesting print instructional materials with specialized formats is unable to read or use regular printed material for the reason indicated above.

Signature/title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

***Please return this completed form to:***

Wakulla County School Board ESE Department  
Attn: Digital Rights Manager  
P.O. Box 100  
Crawfordville, FL 32326  
Phone (850) 926-0065 ext. 253  
Fax (850) 926-0125

*Thank you for your information on behalf of this student.*

## Physician's Role

in considering Specialized Formats for Students with Reading Disabilities

(Please complete form on other side of paper.)

You have been asked to act as a **competent authority** to determine whether or not your patient is eligible to receive curricular materials in an accessible format. Many agencies provide textbooks and other instructional materials in **specialized formats** to qualified students to help them meet their educational goals.

Why does my patient need my **signature** on this application?

Federal Law requires that a doctor of medicine certify that a reading disability is of an organic nature.

What are **specialized formats**?

Specialized formats include Braille, large print, audio, or digital text that can be used with electronic text readers or displayed on monitors.

How can **specialized formats** benefit my patient?

These formats help to accommodate students whose disabilities make it difficult for them to learn from traditional print materials. For example, students with a neurological impairment may benefit from audio or digital books.

How do I know if my patient's reading disability has an **organic** cause?

- **Organic** causes of reading problems include those related to dysfunction of the neural pathways required for fluent reading. These pathways involve brain structures.
- **Nonorganic** causes of reading problems include those unrelated to the neural pathway problems described above. Examples of **nonorganic** causes would include limited English proficiency, lack of instruction, poor attendance, oppositional-defiant disorder, and behavioral disorders.