



Utah Schools for The Deaf and the Blind

JOEL COLEMAN
Superintendent

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

742 Harrison Blvd
Ogden, Utah 84404-5298
801-629-4700 Voice
801-629-4701 TTY
801-629-4896 FAX
1-800-990-9328 Toll Free

SALT LAKE OFFICE

3098 S. Highland Dr. Suite 205
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106-3085
801-464-2000 Voice
801-464-2001 TTY
801-467-6411 FAX

OREM OFFICE

424 South 350 East
Orem, Utah 84058
801-431-5100
801-224-8018 FAX

SALT LAKE CAMPUS JEAN MASSIEU SCHOOL

1655 E. 3300 S.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106
801-657-5762 Video Phone
801-464-2004 FAX

USIMAC

742 Harrison Blvd
Ogden, Utah 84404-5298
801-629-4706 Voice
801-629-4783 Voice
801-629-4800 FAX
www.usimac.org

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Dear Special Ed Directors and Teachers,

GREAT NEWS!! It's time once again to submit your USIMAC orders and this year we have some exciting news! We are now able to serve even more students than we have in the past. Not only can you send in orders for your students textbooks, workbooks, tests, etc., you are able to order for students who have dyslexia and learning disabilities without needing a doctor's signature on the eligibility form. This has been a huge barrier in our ability to serve this population of students in the past and we are thrilled at the opportunity to see even more students succeed with USIMAC materials. This new development has opened up the ability to provide services to all students with no additional cost to the LEA. Once you are opted into USIMAC services, you can receive services for all of your eligible students with no additional costs.

We can produce materials in braille, .brf, large print, PDF, fillable PDF, daisy (audio), and MP3 (audio). As a reminder, due to the large number of orders we receive, any order received **by the April 1st deadline** (with the hard copy received by April 15th) will be complete by the start of school.

As I mentioned during September 2015 USEAM meeting, after reviewing the Chaffee Amendment it has been determined that several more students qualify to receive alternate materials than previously thought. Those who are blind, visually impaired, have physical limitations (including TBI), and those with organic disabilities (including dyslexia and learning disabilities) are all eligible. It's also been determined that the Chaffee Eligibility Form (found at www.usimac.org under "Forms") may now be authorized by the school as long as the accommodation is listed in the student's IEP/504 plan. This includes the organic disabilities which previously could only be authorized by a doctor of medicine. The student's general education teacher, TVI, itinerant, or Special Education Director may sign the eligibility form and submit an order for accessible materials.

If you would like more information about the USIMAC program please don't hesitate to contact me. I will gladly provide you with more information on the different formats and their benefits. I have recently been attending several LEAs special education staff meetings across the State to present on some of the enhancements of USIMAC as well as how to simplify the ordering process. If you are interested in having me come and present to you or your team, please let me know. I sincerely appreciate all you do to serve our wonderful special education kiddos.

Sincerely,

Hollie Murdock
Director, ERC/USIMAC Programs
Email: HollieM@usdb.org
Office: 801-629-4731