



## Utah Schools for The Deaf and the Blind

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Superintendent

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March 8, 2017

Dear Special Ed Directors and Teachers,

As with last year, we are now able to serve even more students than we have in past years. 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.

As I mentioned from the September 2015 USEAM meeting, after reviewing the Chafee 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 to utilize USIMAC services. Furthermore, it has also been determined that the Chafee Eligibility Form (found at [www.usimac.org](http://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 Ed Director may sign the eligibility form and submit an order for accessible materials. This new development has opened up the ability to provide services to so many more students at no additional cost to you. Once you are opted into USIMAC services, you can receive services for all of your eligible students no matter the number.

If you are unsure if your students qualify or would benefit from having their materials in an audio, PDF, large print, braille, etc. format, 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 LEA 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 the wonderful special education

Sincerely,

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