

## **AEMing for Achievement Grant Opportunity! Deadline to Apply - Sept. 28, 2015!**

*Bring Your District Into Compliance & Improve Student Performance.*

### **Benefits of Participation if Selected:**

1. **Intensive**, but friendly, and direct assistance bringing your district into full compliance with determination of need for Accessible Educational Materials, acquisition, implementation, and data collection for the purpose of increasing student achievement.
2. **Dedicated PATINS-ICAM Staff** meeting with your district, both in-person and online, as frequently as needed, for the rest of this grant cycle (school year). This may include help in identifying, training, supporting Digital Rights Managers in your district, identifying weaker areas and developing a plan of action to improve, and
3. **FREE ACCESS** to the Universal Protocol for Accommodations in Reading (uPAR) and also Snap & Read Software for all of your district's buildings! Plus, direct training & support on using these valuable tools! Read more about uPAR here: <http://donjohnston.com/upar/#.VEEpVBZIUEQ> and more on Snap & Read here: <http://donjohnston.com/snap-read/#.Ven0rouWv5k>
4. **COMMUNICATION Device/System ASSISTANCE:** For the first time, each of the 8 selected LEAs will be able to submit at least one application for specialized assistance with finding the right communication device or system for a student with more intensive needs AND financial assistance in order to obtain the device determined to be the most appropriate.
5. **Complimentary PATINS 2015 State Conference** registrations for 2 of your AEM Team Members (\$300 value), to assist with jumpstarting new ideas for increasing accessibility in your district and networking with other professionals. More on PATINS State Conference here: <http://bit.ly/statepatinsevents>
6. **Focused Assistance:** Guidance provided for students identified as benefiting from reading accommodations in 2 primary ways. First, in ensuring your district is



in compliance with the 7 Quality Indicators for providing Accessible Instructional Materials and second in assisting your staff in the collection and analysis of data to guide accommodations and to demonstrate growth and guide further accommodations.

**7. On-Going Collaboration:** Indiana has also been identified by the National Center for AEM at CAST as 1 of 5 states exemplifying best AEM-related practices. Each of these 5 states will participate in an ongoing collaboration beginning now and running through September 2019. At least THREE of the 8 2015-2016 selected PATINS AEMing for Achievement Districts will ALSO have the opportunity to engage in on-going collaborative work through Sept. 2019 within this national leadership effort.

### **Selected District Requirements:**

Up to 8 Indiana Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) will be selected during this 2015-2016 school year to participate.

Each of the 8 LEA's that are selected will be required to assemble an AEMing for Achievement Coordinating Committee (AEMCC). PATINS - ICAM will designate staff to work collaboratively with the AEMCC. All committee members should be committed to devising a detailed plan and to fulfilling the goals of that plan.

Committee members should consist of an administrator, special education staff, general education staff, digital rights manager, and related service personnel, but may include others such as students and parents as well. We recommend 4-7 committee members.

**1. An Initial Face-to-Face Orientation/Training** will be required on **Oct. 5th** in Indianapolis for at least 2 committee members from each district. More are welcome and all members are encouraged.

**2. An Action Plan** will be developed to guide implementation for improvement and a Case Study on at least 1 student will be documented over the course of the grant.



**3. A mid-year online collaborative** and guiding gathering of all committee and staff members will be required on January 14, 2016 for approximately a half-day.

**4. A follow-up collaboration and show & tell day** will be required on April 28, 2016 in Indianapolis for at least 2 committee members from each district. More are welcome and encouraged!

### **Formal Grant Purpose & Additional Details:**

This intensive technical assistance and guidance will help your district more accurately identify students who need reading accommodations and more specifically, which accommodations they receive most benefit from. This is grounded largely within the national movement toward "Accessible Educational Materials" (AEM) and increased federal focus on student achievement and outcome data. More on the 7 AIM Indicators Here:

[http://aim.cast.org/learn/policy/stateresources/quality\\_indicators#.VEEqJRZIUEQ](http://aim.cast.org/learn/policy/stateresources/quality_indicators#.VEEqJRZIUEQ)

PATINS - ICAM provide this guidance, technical assistance and access to uPAR and Snap & Read at no cost to your district beginning October 5th and continuing until you feel successful and comfortable or until June 30th, 2016. You'll have access to uPAR and Snap & Read for a full calendar year from Oct. 5th.

The formal purpose of this grant opportunity is to assist LEAs in providing Accessible Educational Materials (AEM), which are specialized formats of print-based instructional materials, to students with print disabilities AND identifying students who require reading accommodations and which reading accommodations that are best for them individually. Working closely with LEA representatives, PATINS/ICAM will offer guidance on developing, improving and sustaining an effective and efficient system for providing AEM and Assistive Technology (AT) as needed, in a timely manner and in compliance with the IDEA reauthorization of 2004.

Intensive and focused assistance from the PATINS Project/Indiana Center for Accessible Materials (ICAM) will be LEA-focused and will proceed in accordance with an individualized Action Plan collaboratively developed and agreed upon by the LEA's AEM Coordinating Committee and the PATINS Project/ICAM designated staff. Assistance will be provided to the LEA personnel involved in the provision of accessible instructional materials for students with qualifying print disabilities.



Designated personnel in LEAs selected agree to:

- Convene and sustain a LEA AEM Coordinating Committee
- Attend introductory training on Oct. 5th and Collaboration Day on April 28 in Indianapolis (at least 2 members at each).
- Develop an Action Plan based on a needs assessment and implement the activities in the Plan.
- Collect and analyze formative and summative data on systemic effectiveness and change and document an informal Case Study on at least one student.
- Participate in regularly scheduled teleconferences and meetings.
- Provide data on the impact of AEM Grant on the development of the LEA system

LEA AEM Coordinating Committees may consist of a variety of school personnel, but PATINS-ICAM recommends strong consideration of:

- LEA Administrator
- Special Educator Director
- Special Education Teacher
- General Education Teacher
- Teacher of the Visually Impaired
- IT Staff
- Curriculum Staff
- Related Services Staff

LEAs interested in this opportunity should COMPLETE AND SUBMIT an  
APPLICATION BY **September 28, 2015**,  
HERE: <http://bit.ly/aem1516>



All Indiana LEAs are welcome to apply and the selection of LEAs will be based on the information included in the application. Please note that applications should be submitted by school district, not special education cooperative.

Please contact me at your convenience with any questions.

Sincerely,

 **DANIEL G. MCNULTY**  
**STATE DIRECTOR, PATINS PROJECT - ICAM**

