



## Doctor's Role In Obtaining Accessible Educational Materials For Students with Reading Disabilities

You have been asked by your patient's family to act as a certified **Competent Authority (CA)**, to document the presence of a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction which prevents her/him from reading standard print material in the normal manner. Although the Library of Congress removed the requirement for certification by a medical doctor for those with reading disabilities, a parent may still ask you to complete this form. With your signature, this student will be allowed to obtain learning materials in accessible formats that will help them progress in the general curriculum and meet their educational goals. Educators, school psychologists, and certified reading specialists are now among the professionals authorized to certify students with reading disabilities as well.

The following FAQs will help you understand your role in this important process.

### What if I feel unsure about signing this document?

- If you are unfamiliar with the process, you may ask that school personnel provide clarification including anecdotal evidence of a reading disability, since they work with this student in reading situations.

### What are accessible formats?

- Accessible formats include Braille, large print, audio, and digital files.

### How can accessible formats benefit my patient?

- Features such as enlarged text, highlighting, variable font/background color, and the multisensory feature of seeing text while hearing it read, have proven to be effective tools for students who are unable to process print in a normal manner.

### How do I determine if my patient's reading disability has an organic cause?

- **Organic** causes of insufficient reading refer to those related to dysfunction of the neural pathways and may result in the inability to spell, write, read, and comprehend. Sometimes the organic symptoms are comorbid with other disorders.

For more information, please [contact the ICAM \(Indiana Center for Accessible Materials\) Center](#).

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