



Thursday February 20, 2020

Re: ICAM and Learning Ally in Indiana

Dear Indiana Educator,

For more than a decade the ICAM division of the PATINS Project has enjoyed a partnership with Learning Ally Audiobooks, which has made it possible for us to provide human voice recorded audiobooks to qualified students in Indiana Public Schools.

Unfortunately, Learning Ally decided to change its business model this past Fall. As a result, Learning Ally will no longer allow Indiana to purchase memberships for students on an as-needed basis. They will continue as a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting literacy for struggling readers, the same as the ICAM. However, by July 1, 2020, Learning Ally will accept state-wide or district-based subscriptions only.

This will affect many Indiana students who currently receive this service at no charge through the ICAM. The cost of this new business model makes the partnership between PATINS/ICAM and Learning Ally financially impossible. While we regret the impact that this will have on students, negotiations on the matter have been dismissed by Learning Ally. The hundreds of licenses the ICAM has purchased annually, driven by identified student needs, will cease on July 1, 2020 and Learning Ally has made it painfully clear that if we are not able to purchase a statewide license, that they will no longer permit us to purchase individual seats.

The mission of the ICAM is, and has always been, to assist Indiana's local education agencies in meeting the NIMAS regulations of the IDEA reauthorization of 2004 by securing accessible textbooks and core curriculum materials in specialized formats in a timely manner, for students with a documented print disability.

We will persevere in this endeavor by providing traditional file-formats including the NIMAS File Set as well as many derivatives at the request of the user, including, ePub and PDF. We will continue to explore additional options for audio formats, including services and software. We are working in tandem with the IDOE to find a fiscally responsible, operative, and effectual solution to this change imposed by Learning Ally. We will keep you, our stakeholders apprised of all updates and potential subsequent partnerships.



Thank you for your trust and patience. Together we will navigate this unexpected transition successfully! Please reach out to us at any time with your needs and questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. McNulty".

Daniel G. McNulty

PATINS Director

PATINS Project

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Nancy J. Holsapple".

Dr. Nancy J. Holsapple

Director of Special Education

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