What is AIM?
Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) are materials to support core instruction in formats other than the print-based, hard-copy materials such as textbooks, worksheets, workbooks and teacher-printed handouts. AIM provide varied options for media for students who are unable to access the print-based materials due to issues such as visual impairments, reading disabilities, or physical disabilities. These students may require an alternate format such as braille, large print, digital media, or audio material. Digital formats can be further rendered into more specialized formats such as a specific font style, size, color, picture-symbols, or structured styles. If a student requires AIM, the LEA is responsible for the provision of the accessible format. The district may purchase AIM direct from the publisher, order through the LA Textbook Repository, order through another provider such as Bookshare.org or Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, request a file from the **NIMAC, or create their own.

Why AIM?
AIM supports students who are unable to learn from printed textbooks or other printed core instructional materials.

Who needs AIM?
Students who have difficulty reading and may need supports such as text-to-speech. Students who need text transferred into alternate formats such as large print, Braille or another language.
Students with visual difficulties who may require larger text, colored text, contrasting background or larger spacing between text.

<u>Kurzweil 3000</u> is an interactive "text-to-speech" reading, writing and learning software for struggling students that allows virtually any text, printed or electronic, to be modified and read aloud. This interactive multisensory software brings life to virtually any curriculum for independent learning for struggling students or for hands on entier classroom instruction.

Educational software for students and individuals of all ages struggling in reading, writing, comprehension, test taking, and studying. Kurzweil software scans any printed material using a basic flatbed or sheet feed scanner to deliver a full color electronic audible and modifiable version to the individual struggling with learning. Kurzweil can virtually open any popular electronic format such as Microsoft Word, pdf, .txt, rtf, and even some websites and read it out loud highlighting as it reads. Basically anything that can be printed can be converted to Kurzweil format. Read on to see the other resource tools built into Kurzweil to assist in writing, comprehension, test taking, and studing.

Schools, colleges, libraries, and homes with struggling learners across the U.S. benefit daily from using the Kurzweil software. Our most frequent users include

individuals with learning difficulties such as Dyslexia , language learners, vision impairment.

READING TOOLS - Interactive reading tools allow the student to highlight important material, add margin or audio notes, one click access to regular or translation definitions, and encyclopedias. New in version 12, we have translation on the fly through Google Translator. Highlights and notes can be extracted to create study guides or column notes.

WRITING TOOLS - Kurzweil writing tools include a talking word processor that speaks as the student types (letters, words, and sentences). Kurzweil also has an interactive word prediction, talking spell check, synonym lookup, and identifies homophone/confusables. Kurzweil includes writing path components similar to "Inspiration," including organizing a brainstorm graph, outline, and draft. Students can extract column notes from a scanned reading to help start the writing process.

STUDY TOOLS - Kurzweil study tools include the ability for teachers and students to highlight material, add notes(voice, footnote, sticky notes, textnotes), access reference tools (dictionaries, encyclopedias, research websites), and extract highlights and study guides notes.

TEST TAKING - Kurzweil test taking features allow students to independently have a test read out loud. Students are able to fill-in-blanks, highlight or circle answers, and print the test to be graded.

KURZWEIL MODIFICATIONS: Kurzweil has many modifications for various learning styles. Some modifications include the ability to adjust the reading speed, size of text, reading voice, and back ground color (scotopic sensitivity) . Kurzweil software has the ability to create books in audio format, making MP3, Wave and Daisy files. Kurzweil scanned documents can also be printed on a braille embosser for blind students.

http://www.atanswers.com/aim/AIM%20Books2.htm

http://www.kurzweilaustin.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Pages.display&PageNo=5