

COMAR

Code of Maryland Regulations

13A.05.02 Administration of Services for Students with Disabilities

<https://constmail.gov.state.md.us/comar/13a/13a.05.02.13.htm>

This site works best when using Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher

.03B Definitions

(5) “Technology-based instructional products” means instructional software, on-line resources, and computer-based equipment.

.13 Local Public Agency Administration

H. Accessibility of Technology-Based Instructional Products

(1) A public agency shall ensure that a request for bid, request for proposal, and local public agency guidelines for the selection and evaluation of technology-based instructional products used by students include the requirements governing equivalent access consistent with Subpart B, Technical Standards, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

(2) A public agency shall ensure that technology-based instructional products provide students with disabilities equivalent access unless doing so would:

- (a) Fundamentally alter the nature of the instructional activity;
- (b) Result in undue financial and administrative burdens on the public agency; or
- (c) Not meet other specifications.

(3) If a technology-based instructional product meets the criteria described in § H(2) of this regulation or is not available, the public agency shall implement an alternative method of instruction designed to enable a student with a disability to access the general curriculum and meet the student’s IEP goals and objectives as specified in COMAR 13A.05.01.09A.

For more information about 508 and Prince George's County Public Schools see:

<http://www.pgcps.org/~tifa>



What does this change in COMAR cover? Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act

Technology-based instructional products used by students:

- Software applications and operating systems
- Commercial web-based intranet and Internet information and applications used by students
- Computer-based equipment that provides the following functions within the instructional program:
 - Telecommunications
 - Video and multimedia
- Stand alone computer based electronic products
- Desktop and portable computers

Who needs to be aware of this COMAR?

Personnel in any public agency who are responsible for:

- developing bids or proposals
- evaluating, selecting, and/or purchasing technology-based instructional materials used by students.

Important Terminology

Equivalent Access

The functional outcome of using a technology-based instructional product results in students with disabilities being able to access the same instructional content.

Alternative Method of Instruction

Given a particular curricular area in which a school wants to use technology-based instructional materials and a student with a disability is not able to access the materials, the instructor and school need to answer the following questions:

- What is it about the product that is not accessible? What additional equipment services, resources are needed to make it accessible?
- Is another product accessible?
- What other mode of instructional delivery may be used to provide the student with the disability the equivalent access to the curricular content in order to complete the instructional assignments and to learn and incorporate the information into the student's body of knowledge.

Undue Burden

Undue burden means significant difficulty or expense (Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act). If applicable, the agency must:

- give a justification for why the standards impose an undue burden; and
- provide access to information or data for students with disabilities through an alternative means.