Directors’ Webinar

Tuesday, February 11, 2020
1:00 pm

Educating Georgia’s Future by graduating students who are ready to learn, ready to live, and ready to lead.
Assistive Technology Partnership with Tools for Life
Assistive Technology (AT) Services, Software, Training and Lending Library Program with Tools for Life, Georgia’s Technology Act Center

• To build capacity and have a sustainable impact on Assistive Technology Services for grades K-12 throughout Georgia

• January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020
  • Customized Training Videos (3-7 minutes each)
  • Assistive Technology (AT) Consultation Services
  • Assistive Technology Webinar Series
  • AT/UDL Software Pilot Program (Reading, Writing, Math, Study Skills)
  • Assistive Technology Lending Library
  • Discovery Surveys - District Assistive Technology and Accessibility
  • EdTrade, Georgia Assistive Technology (AT) School Exchange Database
Research to Support the Use of Assistive Technology (AT)

• “Accommodations for reading are among the most studied, with evidence showing that text-to-speech or read-aloud can significantly increase both pages read by SWDs and test scores (Calhoun, Fuchs, & Hamlett, 2000; Dolan et al., 2005; Elkind & Elkind, 2002; Fuchs et al., 2000).”

• “Read-aloud and text-to-speech accommodations can help reduce cognitive load by allowing these students to bypass their issues with decoding and focus on reading and processing the texts (Anderson-Inman & Horney, 2007; Dolan et al., 2005; Fuchs and Fuchs, 2001).”
Impact of Assistive Technology (AT)

According to the National Longitudinal Transition Study (NLTS2) - 2012: Comparing postsecondary outcomes of students with high incidence disabilities who reported receiving assistive technology (AT) in high school to those who reported not receiving AT (305,000 students)

- 99.8% of the students who received AT graduated while only 79.6% of the students who did not receive AT graduated.
- 80.9% of students who received AT attended a postsecondary institution while only 40.1% of students who did not receive AT attended a postsecondary institution.
Assistive Technology Partnership
AT Portal

- One stop for access to request services
- Must register and provide contact information and access for designee(s)
- Portal access must be limited to the Director and their designee(s).
- Protect your portal access
• Will be sent through an e-mail to the Special Education Director the week of February 24, 2020.

• Do not disclose student names, identifying details or personally identifiable information (PII).
Consultative Services

The purpose of this partnership is to support district personnel in building their capacity to support students with assistive technology needs.

What it IS:
- Consultation services by Tools for Life staff via teleconsulting and/or email
- Discussion based on information provided by district contact
- Coaching support for staff on implementation of evidence-based practices for assistive technology

What it is NOT:
- Direct student intervention
- Assistive technology evaluations
- Onsite consultations or evaluations
- Supplier of assistive technology devices beyond short loan
Software

Software requests should be made for district-wide licenses/seats (not schools or classrooms within a district). Please consider which students on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) could benefit and submit one request for licenses/seats for the entire district.

- TextHelp
  - Read&Write
  - EquatlO
  - WriQ
Read&Write

• Read&Write lets every student read, write and express themselves more confidently. Read&Write offers support with everyday tasks including reading text out loud, understanding unfamiliar words, researching assignments, writing and proofing written work. The easy-to-use toolbar works with virtually any kind of educational content – websites, Word files, PDFs, Google docs and more. Easy to install and manage, it runs smoothly on PCs, Macs, Chromebooks and tablets.

• Read&Write works with the following platforms: Chrome, Edge, Windows, Mac OS, IPad and Android.

• Recommended for students that have learning difficulties, struggling readers and writers, English Learners and students with an IEP.
EquatIO

- EquatIO helps mathematics and STEM teachers and students at all levels. EquatIO lets everyone create mathematical equations, formulas, Desmos graphs and more on their computer or Chromebook. Teachers or students can type, handwrite or dictate any expression, with no tricky coding or math languages to master. There is a huge library of ready-made expressions to save time, from simple formulas to complex functions.

- EquatIO works with the following platforms: Chrome, Windows, Mac OS, and Web App.

- Recommended for students that have learning difficulties and students with an IEP as well as general education students.
Wri-Q

- WriQ is a writing achievement tool used to easily assess and motivate student writing while providing automated meaningful feedback and delivering a standardized benchmark for grading. It’s faster, more accurate and consistent than traditional manual and subjective grading – giving students, parents and teachers clear visibility of writing progress over time against peers and standardized norms.
- WriQ works with the following platform: Chrome.
- Recommended for students that have learning difficulties, struggling writers and students with an IEP as well as general education students.
Software

• Process is easy through the portal, but three contacts must be registered when making the request for software.
  • District Lead IT Contact/Network Administrator
  • District Lead Contact
  • District Product/AT/Innovation Champion Contact

• Once your information has been verified and your license set up, you will receive an email from mail@texthelp.com which will include directions to get started.

• For questions, contact Texthelp at 888-248-0652 or u.s.info@texthelp.com.
TextHelp Software Request Packet

A district representative must request a Software Request Packet. Click the link below to provide district name, key contact name, and key contact email. Texthelp will then send a packet via email to collect the district and technical information needed to create and setup each software account.

Software Request Packet
TextHelp Information Sessions

These sessions will provide information to help participants understand the scope and application of Read&Write, EquatIO, and WriQ. Sessions will include a brief overview of each product with dialog around how each helps students and teachers. These are not product training sessions.

- February 18th at 2:00  Register
- February 19th at 10:00  Register
- February 19th at 2:00  Register
# TextHelp Training Dates

## Read&Write and WriQ

*Click on a date/time to register.*

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# TextHelp Training Dates

**EquatIO**

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AT Lending Library

The purpose of this partnership is to support district personnel in building their capacity to support students with assistive technology needs.

What it IS:
• To assist in AT decision-making; make an informed purchasing decision
• To collect data substantiating the device meets the student’s needs
• Try a device in a real-life environment
• To serve as a loaner while the student is waiting for repair or ordered device to be delivered
• To provide accommodation on a short-term basis to support professional development

What it is NOT:
• Long-term or open-ended loans
• Equipment for purchase
AT Loan Policies

• Equipment loan period is two-four weeks, depending on the demand for an item.
• The borrower may request a one-time extension of one-four weeks. The extension will be granted as long as there is not a waiting list for the device. The extension period begins at the time the original loan period ends.
  • A borrower requesting an extension to the loan period needs to contact Tools for Life no less than one week prior to the scheduled return date. The contact person will determine whether or not the device will be available for the time of the requested extension, and then will contact the borrower of the decision.
• A maximum of five (5) items may be borrowed at a time.
• Software and apps are available only through the borrowing of a tablet with the app installed. Availability of tablets is limited.
• Loans are made on a first come, first serve basis and filled in the order received.
• If a device is not immediately available, the person making the request will be placed on a waiting list.
• A district NOT returning loaned equipment will not be considered for additional borrowing until all outstanding loaned equipment is returned.
• Tools for Life will ship equipment to you or you may opt to pick it up at our office if you are local.
• You will be responsible for shipping the equipment back to Tools for Life. We ask that you send the item back with tracking, and if the device is over a specified amount, we require insurance for the device. If you are local, you may drop the equipment off at our office.
• Tools for Life cannot guarantee immediate delivery of requested equipment. It is the school’s responsibility to look for other avenues to obtain necessary AT equipment if it is required by an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
EdTrade

• Each year, Georgia school districts purchase assistive technology for eligible students to use. In some cases, this assistive technology ends up never being used or gently used. It may be that the student graduates, moves away or needs another type of technology, leaving the purchased technology behind in the school district.

• Sometimes the assistive technology can easily be reused within the district. Other times, the assistive technology is highly customized and does not fit any other student within the district; leaving costly equipment sitting in the district unused.

• Tools for Life will provide an online K-12 registration system for assistive technology equipment exchange.
EdTrade

• Georgia districts will be able to post their assistive technology needs or available assistive technology for loan/exchange.

• Participating districts can decide whether they want to lend or repurpose their unused assistive technology to a local Georgia district as a cost-saving measure through a written Memorandum of Understanding.

• Responsibility would rest with the participating Local Education Agency (LEA) to develop local policies and procedures to address asset sharing and inventory controls.
Questions
Contact Information

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Paula Gumpman, Program Specialist, Assistive Technology, GaDOE
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Gina Gelinas, Educational Outreach Manager, Tools for Life
Gelinas, Gina P <ggelinas3@gatech.edu>