





Overview of Georgia Tools for Life

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Welcome to the Assistive Technology Revolution!



The world around us is evolving at an astounding rate. Assistive Technology (AT) developments have been foundational in this evolution and a catalyst for producing positive life-changing results for individuals with disabilities.

This session will take a closer look at:

- Tools for Life AT Act Program
- Understanding Assistive Technology
- Defining "Low/Light Tech" to "Mid/High Tech Solutions"
- Guiding Principles
- Research on AT and Transition

...all in about an hour!



AMAC



 AMAC Accessibility is a social change organization on a mission to create affordable services for governmental, private, and non-profit organizations working with individuals with disabilities. Services include E-text, braille, captioning, assistive technology, office management software, and consulting.



Accessibility Made Smart



AMAC creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

- Accessibility Consulting focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and website accessibility solutions.
- **Braille Services** produces customized projects from both print materials and electronic text including partial books and chapters or graphics only using cutting-edge technology.
- Captioning Services makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- Professional E-Text Producers provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML.
- Certified Assistive Technology team provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.



Tools for Life



 We're here to help Georgians with disabilities gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.

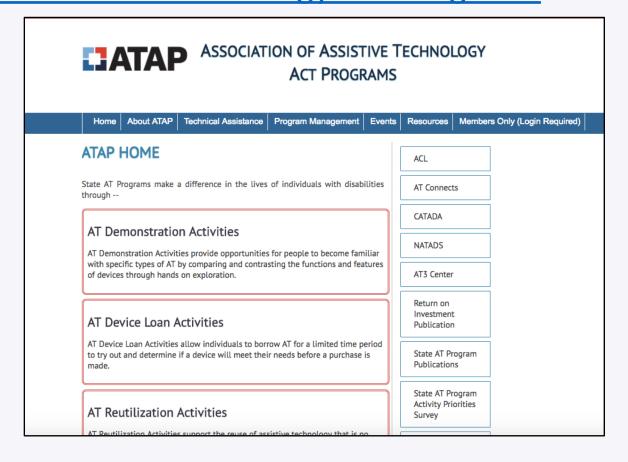




Get to Know Your AT Act Program



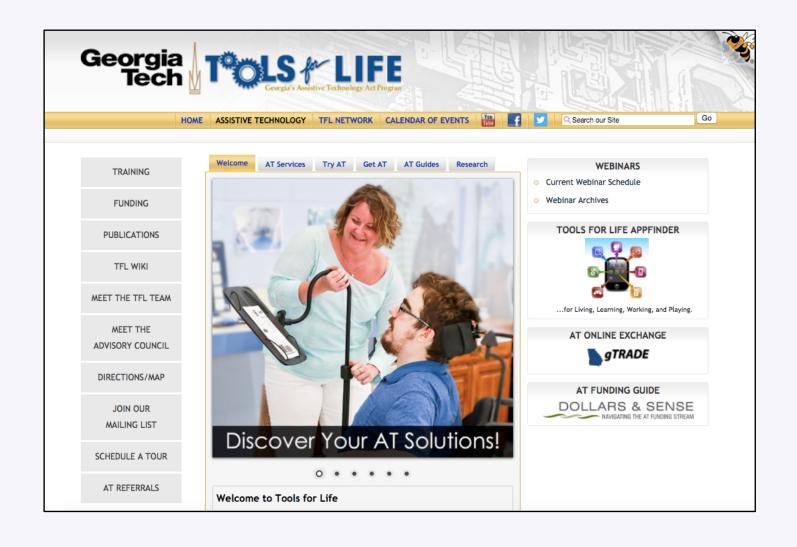
Association of Assitive Technology Act Programs





Tools for Life Website: www.gatfl.org

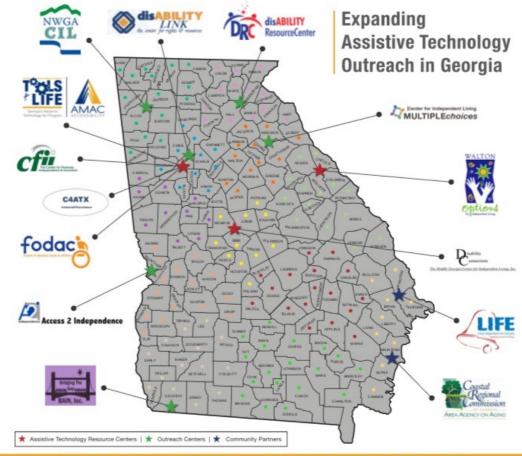






Tools for Life Network

Assistive Technology Resource Centers, Outreach Centers, Community Partners and Affiliates



GEORGIA'S AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS

- Atlanta Regional Commission Aging Division

 Chardian, Cloth, Coth, DeKab, Dougler, Frydde, Fulton, Geller
- Coastal Georgia Area Agency on Aging
 Bryan, Bullock, Canden, Challerin, Effingham, Gynn, Uberly, Lon Montach
- CSRA Area Agency on Aging Burks, Columbis, Gascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jerkins, Lincoln, McCulfie, Fochmond, Screwer, Tellaferrs, Waren, Washington, Wike
- Heart of Georgia Area Agency on Aging Apping, Bleddey Cander, Codge, Brezuel, Evare, Jeff Code, Johnson, Laurens, Morgomey, Telfroll, Wide, Toombs, Treater, Wayne, Wheeler, Villow
- Legacy Link Georgia Mountains Area Agency on Aging
 Birks, Dawson, Forsyth, Provide, Historitum, Hot, Hart, Lampkin,
 Birks, States, States, States, States
- Middle Georgia Arek Agency on Aging
 Bilderin, Stat, Craeford, Headon, Jones, Morroe, Peach, Pulse
 Putrers, Teiggs, Wildram.
- Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging

 Barros, Clarks, Ebert, Greene, Jackson, Jaque, Madros, Morgi
 Neston, Oconie, Oglethorps, Walton
- Northwest Georgia Area Agency on Aging

 Barton, Catoma, Chattenga, Dade, Farnin, Royd, Gilmer, God-Haration, Nursey Paulding Pickers, Polk, Walker, Whitfield
- River Valley Area Agency on Aging
 Ondhalocches, Oay Orep, Dody, Heris, Micon, Marier, Muscoges,
 Dather, Rendelth, Science Science Safety Welnier
- Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging

 Aktrison, Boon, Berlint, Berlint, Erantiny Brooks, Charlon, Clinch,
 Colke, Cook, Echele, Invin, Jamie, Lawdes, Perce, Tift, Turner Was
- SOWEGA Council on Aging Southwest Georgia Area Agency on Aging Biles Cultous, Colguit, Decalut, Douglerly Early Gody Leis, Will Mitchill, Santook, Terell, Thomas, Worth
- Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging Butts, Coroll. Counts, Heard, Larner, Merkeether, Tiku, Spill Taltert, Toug. Upson





What is Assistive Technology?



- Assistive Technology (AT) is any item or piece of equipment that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life, including at school, at work, at home and in the community.
- Assistive Technology ranges from no/low/light tech to high tech devices or equipment.





Assistive Technology Services



- Assistive Technology Services are any services that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. These services include:
- Evaluating
- Providing devices
- Selecting, Designing, Customizing
- Maintaining, Repairing
- Coordinating
- Training/Technical Assistance student, family, and school service providers

Public Law 105-394 [29 USC 2201]

Tools for Life & TFL Network



- TFL developed Georgia's Plan for AT
- We serve individuals of all ages & all disabilities in Georgia
 - Over 50,000 thru various activities throughout the year

TFL Network

- Assistive Technology Resource Centers/Outreach Sites
- Lending Libraries
- Training and Demonstrations
- AT Reuse
- AT Funding Education and Resources

Online Resources

www.gatfl.gatech.edu



Tools for Life Training: Webinars



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01/11/17	TFL and Money Follows the Person	[Audio]		PDF ₽
11/10/16	How to Create Quick and Easy Accessible Worksheets	Audio 🗗		PDF ₽
10/06/16	Apps for Communication	Audio &		PDF ₪
09/08/16	Transition and Beyond: Technology for Life	Audio 🗗		PDF ₽
05/19/16	How Can Audio Help All Students in K-12	Audio 🗗		PDF ₽
04/14/16	Standard, Practical and FREE AT!	Audio &		PDF ₪
03/24/16	How To Teach AAC: Implementation Strategies for Partners	Audio 🗗		PDF 🗗
03/10/16	Vision Supports for the Classroom	Audio &		PDF 🗗
02/25/16	The DT Trainer – A Virtual Extra Teaching Assistant	Audio &		PDF ₽
02/11/16	Keeping Literature Lively with Loop Activities	Audio 🗗	_	PDF 🗗



Tools for Life Training: Face to Face













Statewide AT Conferences: GATE 2018



- Georgia Assistive Technology in Education (GATE) Annual Seminar
- Friday, December 7, 2018
- Georgia Tech Student Center
- This event is open to all Georgia educators, parents, students with disabilities, family members and anyone else interested in learning more about assistive technology in education!





Statewide AT Conferences: IDEAS 2018





- Institute Designed for Educating All Students (IDEAS)
- Week of June 3-6, 2019
- St. Simons Island: Epworth
- Georgia's only teacher conference supporting the education of students with disabilities.



Leadership in Assistive Technology



Gaming for people with disabilities

Coordination of disaster relief services



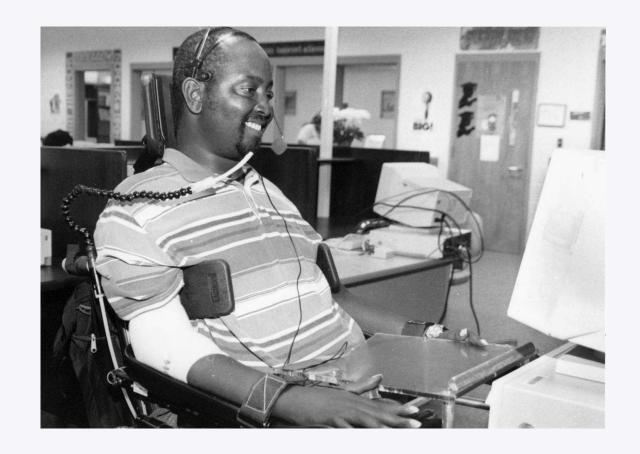




Why Assistive Technology?



- For a person without a disability, assistive technology makes life easier.
- For a person with a disability, assistive technology makes life possible.
- Tip: USE AT! I have yet to meet a successful student with disabilities who doesn't use any AT.





Guiding Principle and Public Law



- ...disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to:
- (A) live independently;
- (B) enjoy self-determination and make choices;
- (C) benefit from an education;
- (D) pursue meaningful careers; and
- (E) enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educations mainstream of society in the United States.

Public Law 108-364



The "FAST" Track



- Frustration
- Anxiety
- Stress
- Tension



Assistive Technology Continuum



Assistive
 Technology is a
 continuum of
 tools, strategies,
 and services that
 match a person's
 needs, abilities,
 and tasks.

Low/No-tech

- pencil grip
- adapted books
- slant board
- highlighters, tape
- magnifiers
- color coding
- read to out loud
- picture schedule
- strategies for memory
- colored transparencies
- proof readers
- note taker

Mid-Tech

- word prediction
- text to speech
- speech to text
- spell checkers
- talking calculators
- digital recorders
- organizers
- e-books
- adapted keyboard
- adapted mouse
- adapted toys
- CCTV
- apps under \$100

High-Tech

- computer/laptops
- tablets/phablets
- smartphones
- smart pens
- OCR scanner/software
- magnification software
- speech output devices
- switch, joystick access
- scanning access
- voice recognition
- environmental control devices
- apps over \$100



Universal Design for Learning



Universal Design for Learning Guidelines

I. Provide Multiple Means of **Representation**

1: Provide options for perception

- 1.1 Offer ways of customizing the display of information
- 1.2 Offer alternatives for auditory information
- 1.3 Offer alternatives for visual information

2: Provide options for language, mathematical expressions, and symbols

- 2.1 Clarify vocabulary and symbols
- 2.2 Clarify syntax and structure
- 2.3 Support decoding of text, mathematical notation, and symbols
- 2.4 Promote understanding across languages
- 2.5 Illustrate through multiple media

- 3.1 Activate or supply background knowledge
- 3.2. Highlight patterns, critical features, big ideas, and relationships
- 3.3 Guide information processing, visualization, and manipulation
- 3.4 Maximize transfer and generalization

II. Provide Multiple Means of **Action and Expression**

- 4: Provide options for physical action
- 4.1 Vary the methods for response and navigation
- 4.2 Optimize access to tools and assistive technologies

5: Provide options for expression and communication

- 5.1 Use multiple media for communication
- 5.2 Use multiple tools for construction and composition
- 5.3 Build fluencies with graduated levels of support for practice and performance

III. Provide Multiple Means of **Engagement**

- 7: Provide options for recruiting interest
- 7.1 Optimize individual choice and autonomy
- 7.2 Optimize relevance, value, and authenticity
- 7.3 Minimize threats and distractions

8: Provide options for sustaining effort and persistence

- 8.1 Heighten salience of goals and objectives
- 8.2 Vary demands and resources to optimize challenge
- 8.3 Foster collaboration and community
- 8.4 Increase mastery-oriented feedback

3: Provide options for comprehension 6: Provide options for executive functions

- 6.1 Guide appropriate goal-setting
 - 6.2 Support planning and strategy development
 - 6.3 Facilitate managing information and resources
 - 6.4 Enhance capacity for monitoring progress

- 9: Provide options for self-regulation
- 9.1 Promote expectations and beliefs that optimize
- 9.2 Facilitate personal coping skills and strategies
- 9.3 Develop self-assessment and reflection

Resourceful, knowledgeable learners

Strategic, goal-directed learners

Purposeful, motivated learners



Research: AT and Transition



According to the National Longitudinal Transition Study(NLTS2) - 2012:

- 99.8% of the students who received AT graduated
 - Only 79.6% of those who did not receive AT graduated.
- 80.9% of students who received AT attended a post-secondary institution
 - Only 40.1% of students who did not receive AT attended a postsecondary institution.
- 80% of those who received AT had a paying job after high school
 - Only 50.8% of those who did not receive AT had a paying job.



AMAC Research Study



Background

- Assistive technology (AT) is proving to be a staple tool that students with disabilities are using to achieve success in post-secondary settings.
- Students who qualify have access to textbooks in electronic format. Students use computer and tablet-based software to help them read their textbooks and gain comprehension.
- It has been assumed that students who have learned to use these AT tools while still in high school may have a distinct advantage over students who come to college without having experience with these tools.
- However there is little evidence to confirm this assumption.



AMAC Study (2)



Research Questions

- In order to examine this assumption and to gain insight into the use of AT by college students, we propose to invite students who have made use of the AMAC services since 2014 to take part in a survey to determine the following:
- What percentage of students with disabilities who are referred to AMAC are coming prepared to use AT?
- How successful are these students in college?
- How does the success of these students who come prepared to use AT compare to the success level of students who are not prepared to use AT?
- Have the AT services provided by AMAC been effective and helpful to these students?



What percentage of students referred to AMAC are coming prepared to use AT?



- In the AMAC study:
- 57% coming to post-secondary education expressed a level of mastery of their AT.
- 43% coming to post-secondary education did not report mastery of their AT.

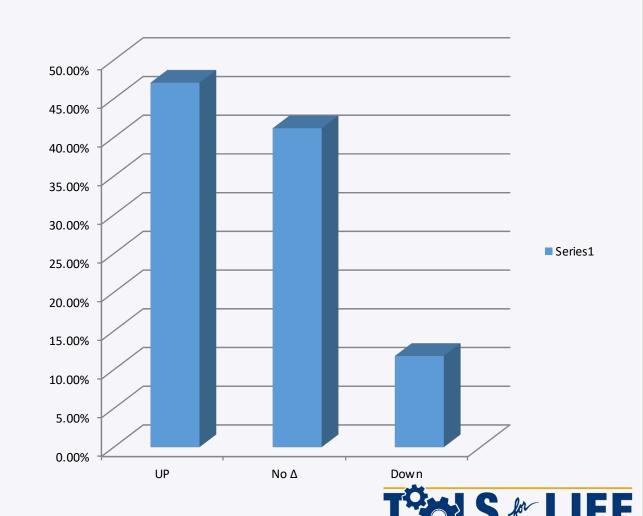


Research: Mastery of AT in High School



Change in GPA from High School to Post-Secondary among students who mastered AT in high school:

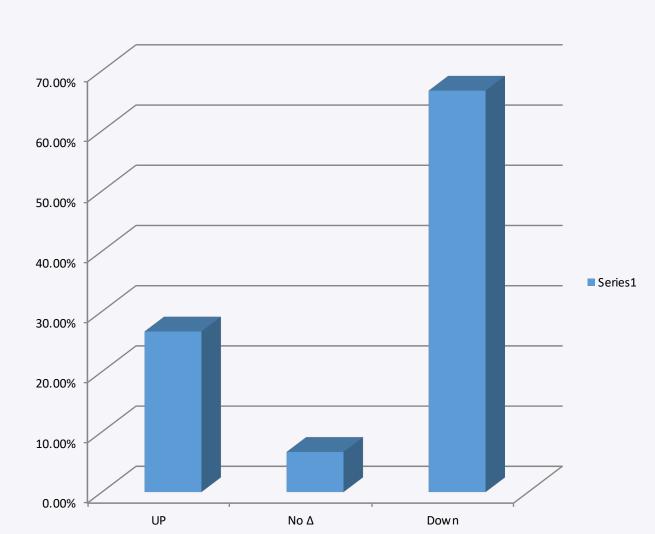
- GPA went up: 47%,
- GPA showed no change: 41%,
- GPA went down: 11%



Research: Mastery of AT in High School



(2)



 Change in GPA from High School to Post-Secondary among <u>students</u> who had not mastered AT in high school:

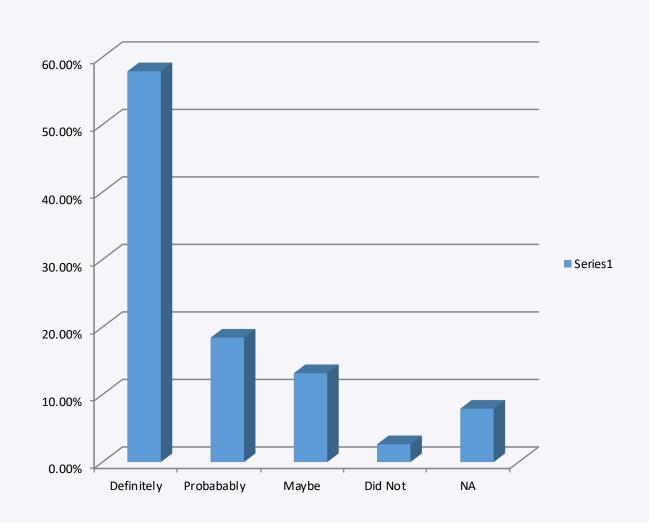
- GPA went Up: 27%
- GPA showed no Change: 7%
- GPA went down: 67%



Did Students Feel AT Made a Difference?



(students with high incidence disabilities)



Among students with high incidence disabilities:

- Definitely 58%,
- Probably 18%,
- Maybe 13%,
- Not 3%,
- No Answer 8%



QUESTIONS (2)







The Tools for Life Team





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Disclaimer: Produced by Tools for Life (TFL), which is a result of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004. TFL is a program of the Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Design, AMAC Accessibility and was made possible by Grant Number H224C030009 from the Administration for Community Living. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS.

