

# Helping Teachers Use AT Effectively

*Amanda Inman and Wanda Oliver, Paulding  
County Schools*

*Jennifer Lyons, Fulton County Schools*

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

*2:00pm to 3:30pm EST*



Georgia's Assistive  
Technology Act Program

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CREATE/Center 4 AT  
Excellence

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# Webinar Evaluation

At the end of today's webinar, we ask that you please take a moment to complete our survey:

<https://www.research.net/s/TFLwebinar>

# Join us!

- **March 27, 2:00 to 3:30 – Exploring Tools for Life's Favorite Apps for Learning Disabilities,** *Carolyn Phillips & Martha Rust*
- **April 4, 2:00 to 3:30 – TFL & CREATE: Interactive Whiteboards and Inclusive Classrooms,** *Diane Talbert, Unified AV*



# Contact

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*Disclaimer*

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**Assistive Technology  
Implementation**

**A Look Behind  
the Scenes**

**Developing  
Effective  
Trainings**

**Jennifer Lyons**  
**Assistive Technology**  
**Implementation**  
**Specialist**





**Provide Overview Of  
Assistive Technology**

**Provide Focused Trainings  
for Administrators,  
Teachers, Support Staff and  
Parents**

**Provide Individual Follow  
up**

**Provide Feedback to  
Teams and  
Administration**



What is  
Assistive  
Technology?



Why is  
Assistive  
Technology  
Crucial?



How does  
The IEP  
Team  
consider AT?



Where can I  
locate  
trainings and  
resources?



# Assistive Technology Overview

- <http://www.gpat.org/Georgia-Project-for-Assistive-Technology/Pages/Assistive-Technology-Definition.aspx#Device>

## **Understanding Assistive Technology**

- How Do I Consider Assistive Technology
  - Provide a Core of Equipment and Software for special education classes or a lending library
  - Provide Focus training on core
  - Provide a consideration checklist to help guide the IEP team
  - Have a process in place to request Assistance when the team has difficulty

## **How to Consider Assistive Technology**



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for Administrators,  
Teachers, Support Staff and  
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**Provide Individual Follow  
up**

**Provide Feedback to  
Teams and  
Administration**

- **Setting up an Accessible Classroom**
  - Using core equipment and software
  - Setting up class, Zone plans, Schedules, etc.
- **Visually Cued Instruction**
  - Cover Boardmaker Software (core for Teachers)
  - Using visuals in instruction and transitions
- **AAC 101**
  - Day 1 Intro to communication from 8 choice core words to 60 core words
  - Day 2 Integrating Teaching Reading and Writing to students who are non verbal, displays echolalia or has unintelligible speech.

## **Low Incidence Trainings**

- **Qualities Focused Training**
  - Define Learning Objective
    - The goal is implementation
    - Minimal focus on the technical
  - Consider Learning Styles
  - Hook your audience
  - Interactive
    - Allows participants to learn “the why” while experiencing “the how”
  - Provide video of real implementation

## **Focused Training**

Video: 1Voice

**Hook Your Audience**



# **Use Videos in Training**

- Video – In class snack

- Video - Read along with step by step

**Accessible Classroom**

- Video – Core words

- Video -  
Transition to  
high tech week

**Examples from AAC 101**

- Video - Board

- Video – Vocab  
review reading

**Visually Cued Instruction  
Boardmaker training**



## Vary Examples

- By age
- Class Type
- Types of equipment



**Provide Overview Of  
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**Provide Individual Follow  
up**

**Provide Feedback to  
Teams and  
Administration**

- Individual Follow ups in the classroom
  - Teachers, Paraprofessionals, OT's, PT's, SLP's each sign up for a 45 minute follow up in there school.
  - Trainee drives the follow up based on their needs
  - Trainee can email questions or special request ahead of time

**Follow Up Support**

- AT Specialist
  - Observe
  - Model
  - Provide feedback
  - And answer questions

## **Assistive Technology Specialist Role in a Follow Up**





**Provide Overview Of  
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**Provide Individual Follow  
up**

**Provide Feedback to  
Teams and  
Administration**

- After a Follow up
  - It may be determined additional follow up is needed
  - A form can be sent to the administrator with things to watch for based on class objectives
    - This can be part of their walk through

**Provide Feedback**

Feedback Is Key

Don't be afraid of it; use it to be your best!!!



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# Research In Action: *One District's Student-Focused Approach to Professional Learning*

Presented by:

Amanda Inman & Wanda Oliver

<http://missionpossibleat.wikispaces.com/>

**MISSION:**  
**POSSIBLE**



PAULDING COUNTY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*Focused on Learning*



# Missions

## Paulding County:

The Student Services Department is committed to **empowering** teachers by providing the support needed to **meet the instructional needs** of a **diverse population**, preschool through high school.

## Don Johnston:

Don Johnston believes in sharing his personal journey as a **struggling reader** to build **self-confidence** in others. He also believes in designing supplemental instruction and intervention strategies to help students become **successful readers, writers and thinkers**. One of the tools he created is *ReadOutLoud*.



- Designed specifically to build comprehension strategies in struggling readers
- Provides a framework where students spend more time independently learning and practicing the reading strategies of good readers and turning them into habits
- Instructional technology allows students to spend more time meaningfully interacting with text than using traditional instruction methods only (National Reading Panel, 2000)
- “Technology is both a facilitator of literacy and a medium of literacy. Effective adolescent literacy programs therefore should use technology as both an instructional tool and an instructional topic”(Reading Next Report, 2004, p. 27).

# How We Got Here

- District-Wide Licenses
- Pre-Planning Training
- Collaboration between AT and Reading Specialist
- Don Johnston's Leadership Summit



PAULDING COUNTY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*Focused on Learning*





# Preparing for Take-Off!

**Planning the Mission**



PAULDING COUNTY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*Focused on Learning*

# Planning the Mission

- Brainstorming session – AT and Reading Specialist
- Met with principal – leadership buy-in
- Developed plan of action – Google Docs
- Met with grade-level team leaders (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Distributed self-efficacy survey (K12-Insight)
- Developed plan for training (AT and Reading Specialist)



# Mission Control: Student Training

- Training 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes with teachers
- Classes rotate to lab session in place of specials
- Specials Teacher provides support
- Classroom Teacher assists during training
- Walked through basic features of Read: OutLoud
- Reading Specialist takes active role in training
- Teachers receive monthly training sessions on reading strategies

# Read: OutLoud Training



# Read: OutLoud Training



# Mission Control: Gathering Information

- Classroom Observations





# Mission Control: Gathering Information

- Focus Groups







# Future Missions

- Providing additional training for teachers utilizing Don Johnston's [Train-in-30 model](#).
- [AT Collective](#)
- Infuse more Read: OutLoud support in monthly Reading cohort
- Follow up observations and focus groups
- Spread the word – Principal's Meeting



# Resources



 **MissionPossibleAT**

Search Wiki

**All Pages:**

- home
- Don Johnson Resources
- Misadventures Resources
- UDL Resources
- Wanda's Reading Resources

**Navigation Options**  
[wiki navigation](#)

## Mission Possible: One District's Student-Directed Approach to AT Training Resources ATIA 2013

Welcome to our wiki site. :) We have designed this site to provide you with resources that have helped us on our mission to bring effective training to the staff and students of Paulding County School District with the goal of increasing implementation of universal tools. This year, we have worked closely with staff and students at an elementary school in our district to determine the best methods of providing professional development and support to increase the utilization of our county-wide universal reading/writing support tool Read: OutLoud. Please join us on our mission. We will continue to update resources and experiences as we discover new ways to improve our provision of professional development.

**Presenters Information:**

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**Learning Objectives:**

- Describe the benefits of the "direct to students" approach to training for AT universal solutions
- Demonstrate at least two of the "tips and tricks" derived from the lessons learned by Paulding County trainers
- Describe how you can use the information to transform the way you roll out universal AT tools in your district

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