Tools for Life: Your Assistive Technology Act Program

Presented by:
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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:

• AMAC | Tools for Life – AT Act Program
• Understanding Assistive Technology
• Defining “Low/Light Tech” to “Mid/High Tech Solutions”
• Guiding Principles

...all in about 30 minutes!

For Handouts: Visit the Tools for Life Wiki Page
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.
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.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.amacusg.org](http://www.amacusg.org)
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 Assistive Technology Act Programs
Tools for Life Network
Assistive Technology Resource Centers, Outreach Centers, Community Partners and Affiliates

Expanding Assistive Technology Outreach in Georgia

Georgia's Aging & Disability Resource Centers

Tools for Life
Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

AMAC ACCESSIBILITY
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 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]
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.
...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 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
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Mission of TechSAGE

• to support people with chronic conditions and long-term impairments who are at risk of disability or increased disability due to comorbid age-related losses;

• by empowering these individuals to sustain independence; maintain health; engage safely in activities at home and in the community; and fully participate in society;

• through increasing knowledge about, availability of, and access to effective, universally-designed technologies.
Georgia Assistive Technology in Education (GATE) Annual Seminar

• Friday, December 8, 2017
• 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!
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