Assistive Technology for Postsecondary Success

Presented by:
Paula Gumpman, Program Specialist | Georgia Department of Education
Liz Persaud, Training & Outreach Coordinator | Tools for Life
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 holds especially true for students whether in K-12 or moving into postsecondary opportunities. During this session we will take a closer look at:

• Defining Assistive Technology
• Understanding Assistive Technology Strategies and Solutions
• Exploring the Impact of Assistive Technology On the Postsecondary Experience
• Review Assistive Technology Examples

For Handouts: Visit the Tools for Life Wiki Page
Georgia Department of Education and Tools for Life

Our roots and partnership are deep and strong!

IDEAS Conference
Epworth by the Sea
St. Simons Island, Georgia
June 5 - 8, 2018
Guiding Principles

- We – Collectively – are Brilliant & Can find an Innovative Path and Create Brighter Futures
- Smooth Transitions Make The Difference!
- We must Think, Live and Act from a place of Abundance – We have enough time, money, resources.
- We Must Focus on Abilities!
- Assistive Technology is Key to Success.
- Success Breeds Success
- You have the Power to make the Difference!
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)
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.
Tools for Life Website: Visit Us Online
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 Continuum

Observations and “Hanging out with Intent”

Assistive Technology is a \textit{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
Assistive Technology Services(“Tech Act”)

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]
Assistive Technology Device - Schools

Assistive Technology Device(Schools)

Any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of children with disabilities.

EXCEPTION. The term does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such device.
Assistive Technology Service - Schools

Assistive Technology Service

Any service that directly assists a child with a disability with the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.

• Evaluation
• Purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition
• Selecting designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, retaining, repairing, or replacing
• Coordinating and using other therapies, interventions, or services
• Training or technical assistance
• Training or technical assistance for professionals (including individuals or rehabilitation services), employers, or other individuals who provide services to employ, or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of children with disabilities
Effective AT Assessment

- Uses a feature-match approach
- Incorporates on-going educational/life planning
- Hanging out with Intent
- Targets natural environments
- Utilizes the competencies of multiple team members
- Demands meaningful follow-through
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! We have yet to meet a successful student who doesn’t use any AT.*
The “FAST” Track

Frustration
Anxiety
Stress
Tension
AT Helps!

Assistive Technology strategies and solutions can help support students with a variety of disabilities in all areas of life. AT helps to bridge the gap and provide solutions to problems with:

• speaking
• hearing
• seeing
• moving around
• getting places
• memory
• cognition (thought processes and understanding)
• daily living activities, such as dressing and preparing meals
• socializing
AT Helps!

Assistive Technology strategies and solutions can help support students with a variety of disabilities in all areas of life. AT helps to bridge the gap and provide solutions to problems with:

1. Students who experience **difficulty with reading** use technology to access information, acquire knowledge and demonstrate skills.
2. Students who experience **difficulty with writing** use technology to demonstrate knowledge and skills.
3. Students who experience **difficulty with physical or sensory access** to classroom materials use technology to access the curriculum and demonstrate knowledge and skills.
Assistive Technology strategies and solutions can help support students with a variety of disabilities in all areas of life. AT helps to bridge the gap and provide solutions to problems with:

4. Students who experience **difficulty with math** use technology to access information, acquire knowledge and demonstrate skills.

5. Students who experience **difficulty with oral communication** use technology to support communication efforts.
Finding Alternative Sources of **Funding** for **Assistive Technology**. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA), all local **educational** agencies (LEAs) are expected to provide **assistive technology** (AT) to students who need it in order to receive a free appropriate public education.
• Tools for Life endeavors to break down the barriers which prevent individuals with disabilities, their families, and service providers from acquiring and effectively using Assistive Technologies to gain greater independence.
• To insure that AT products are available to Georgians with disabilities
• Eliminate funding barriers
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 educational mainstream of society in the United States.

Public Law 108-364
Transition Success:

Understanding the Assistive Technology Connection
Universal Design makes things safer, easier and more convenient for everyone.

Universal Design involves designing products and spaces so that they can be used by the widest range of people possible.
Ergonomics in the Classroom
Your TFL AppFinder

Search by:
☑️ App Name
☑️ Categories
  - Books/Reading
  - Education
  - Environmental Adaptations
  - Hearing
  - Vision
  - Navigation
  - Cognition, Learning, and Development
  - Personal Care and Safety
  - Productivity
  - Communication
  - Therapeutic Aids
"Research indicates that many of the emotional or social difficulties gifted students experience disappear when their educational climates are adapted to their level and pace of learning."

TIP: Differentiation in education can also include how a student shows that they have mastery of a concept. This could be through a research paper, role play, podcast, diagram, poster, etc.

TIP: The key to differentiation is finding how your students learn and displays their learning that meets their specific needs.

Wikipedia
What is Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 2?

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a genetic condition which affects the nerves that control muscle movement – the motor neurons.

It is named 'spinal' because most of the motor neurons are located in the spinal cord. 'Muscular' is in the name because it primary affects the muscles which don’t receive signals from the motor neurons. ‘Atrophy’ is the medical term for wasting away or getting smaller, which is what generally happens to muscles when they’re not active.

Weakness of the spinal muscles results in scoliosis (curvature of the spine) which may require bracing and eventually surgery. Shortening of the muscle (contractures) can restrict movement especially around the hip, knee and ankle joints. Usually the muscles used in chewing and swallowing are not significantly affected early on. The muscles of the chest wall are affected, causing poor breathing function and susceptibility to respiratory infections and complications.
Muscular Dystrophy

Spinal Muscular Atrophy 2

• Diagnosed at 9 months
  • Life Expectancy? (Age 2, 6, 11, 17) I AM 39 – Yesterday was my Birthday!
  • Stable vs. Decline
  • Progressive Muscle Weakness
  • Fatigue
  • Chronic Pain

• Variety of assistive technology and durable medical equipment - writing, access, environment
• My list of AT & DME continually grows!
Consider this

My Success relies on

• Failing
• Dignity of Failure
  • I learned More from My “Failures” sometimes than my “successes”
  • Give yourself room to fail – and Grow from the experience
  • Learn to Laugh - a lot!
• Be Optimistic
• Evaluate & Evolve!
My Success Relies on:

• Building win-win-WIN relationships
  • Establishing a solid circle of support
    – Receiving and providing support
  • Diversify your Circle of Friends and Acquaintances
  • It sometimes is “Who you know”
• BALANCE - Social Life and Studies
Successful Transitions Help Create a Successful Life Journey

Teach Students to:

✓ Get to Know Yourself
✓ Plan for Your Success – in school, work, Life!
✓ Begin with the End in Mind
✓ Be able to tell Your Story
✓ Listen & Learn
✓ Try – Fail & Try again...
✓ When things get off track - Evaluate and Evolve
✓ Explore & USE Assistive Technology
✓ Laugh Much!
✓ Celebrate your Successes!!
The Tools for Life Team

Carolyn Phillips
Director, Tools for Life
carolyn.phillips@gatfl.gatech.edu

Martha Rust
AT Specialist
martha.rust@gatfl.gatech.edu

Sam Creech
AT Specialist
sam.creech@gatfl.gatech.edu

Sarah Endicott
Research Scientist
sarah.endicott@design.gatech.edu

Asha Kumar
AT Lab Specialist
asha.kumar@gatfl.gatech.edu

Ciara Montes
Direct Services Intern
ciara.montes@gatfl.gatech.edu

Rachel Wilson
AT Specialist
rachel.wilson@gatfl.gatech.edu

Krista Mullen
Speech Language Pathologist
krista.mullen@gatfl.gatech.edu
The Tools for Life Team (continued)

Ben Jacobs  
Accommodations Specialist  
ben.jacobs@gatfl.gatech.edu

Liz Persaud  
Training Coordinator  
liz.persaud@gatfl.gatech.edu

Tori Holder  
Outreach Specialist  
tori.holder@gatfl.gatech.edu

Annabel Joyner  
Graphic Design Intern  
ajoyner8@gatech.edu

Sam Peters  
Program Specialist  
speters37@gatech.edu

Danny Housley  
AT Funding and Resource Specialist  
danny.housley@gatfl.gatech.edu

Justin Ingham  
Support Specialist  
jingham3@gatech.edu

JR McCall  
CFII Administrative Assistant  
jmccall32@gatech.edu
Georgia Department of Education and Assistive Technology
Program Specialist: Paula Gumpman (pgumpman@doe.k12.ga.us)

Georgia Instructional Materials Center
Program Manager: Carson Cochran (ccoehran@doe.k12.ga.us)
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