



Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired Outreach Programs

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Addressing the ECC: Assistive Technology

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Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Outreach Programs

Developed for
TSBVI Outreach Programs

Addressing the ECC: Assistive Technology

Presented by Sharon Nichols, Technology Consultant, TSBVI Outreach Programs

Assistive Technology and the Expanded Core Curriculum

Focuses on the knowledge and skills that are essential to learning how to use technology to access all aspects of daily living, whether at school, at work, at play, or at rest

ECC Essentials:

Teaching the Expanded Core Curriculum to Students with Visual Impairments p.187

AFB Press

Carol B. Allman and Sandra Lewis

Components of Assistive Technology from ECC Essentials, page 189 (AFB)

- Access to information, including knowledge of basic general technology skills necessary to use multiple tools, operating systems and applications...
- Communication, including basic skills students with or without visual impairments...
- Personal Productivity, including the use of basic applications that enhance personal efficiency, productivity, and independence...

What is an Assistive Technology Assessment?

An Assistive Technology Assessment is a collaborative process through which an IEP team or education team -- one that may also include certified technology specialists and other related services professionals -- identifies technologies that can improve a student's performance, access, participation, and independence. It's an ongoing process -- not a one-time event -- designed to match students with assistive technology, as well as implement and measure the most effective solutions for academic and career success.

Poll – What Assessment Tool do you use?

- SETT Framework
- WATI Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative
- University of Kentucky Assistive Technology Project (UKAT Toolkit)
- District Made Assessment
- Other

Assessment

- SETT Framework - <http://assistedtechnology.weebly.com/sett-framework.html>
- Texas Assistive Technology Network (TATN) - <http://www.texasat.net/default.aspx?name=trainmod.evaluation>
- WATI Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative - <http://www.wati.org/?pageLoad=content/supports/free/index.php>
- University of Kentucky Assistive Technology Project (UKAT Toolkit) - <http://edsrc.uky.edu/www/ukatii/toolkit/index.html>

Assessment – Role of TVI

- Collaborate with District AT Team and other professionals
- Assistive Technology Decisions
- Documentation
- Monitoring Progress

Knowledge of Specialized Technology

From ECC Essentials p. 190

- The particular assistive technology devices selected for each student depend on several factors, including:
 - The specific needs of the individual child and the type of access needed, based on the extent of the visual impairment
 - The presence of additional disabilities
 - The degree to which the child relies on visual, tactile, or auditory input for learning

When do you Introduce Assistive Technology?

- No Tried and True Answer – but must address TEKS
- When do all students use technology
- Build on concepts
 - Full page of hard copy braille, pages, paragraphs, etc
- Students with visual impairments need instruction before expectations of generalized usage
- What does the student need for future success (post-secondary, employment)

Teaching Assistive Technology

- Not as a stand-alone skill
- Lack of incidental learning
- Embedded in lessons
 - Spelling lessons
 - Letter writing
 - Internet searches
 - STEM classes

How do you Know What Assistive Technology is Available?

- Vendors
- Other Teachers
- Internet
- Conventions
- Trainings

TVI Training Opportunities

- Regional Service Centers
- Local District Workshops
- Online Courses
- Video Tutorials
- Podcasts
- Manuals

Types of Assistive Technology

- Electronic Braille Writers
- Basic Computer Usage
 - Screen Enlargement Software
 - Screen Reading Software
- Braille Notetakers
- Video Magnifiers
- Touch Screen Tablets
- Braille Displays
- Specialized STEM Devices

Technology Success Stories

- Good communication and cooperation between TVI, IT, and classroom teachers
- Built-in accessibility features
- Dropbox
- Google drive, documents, email
- Project based learning
- Teacher websites
 - Handouts
 - assignments

Tutorials for Assistive Technologies

- Paths to Literacy for students with visual impairments
<http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/technology>
- Iowa Educational Services for Blind and Visually Impaired. Lessons for BrailleNote, Mountbatten, iPad, Duxbury, etc.
<http://www.iowabraille.k12.ia.us/vnews/display.v/SEC/Resources/Services%20A-F%7CAssistive%20Technology>
- SETBC – Special Education Technology British Columbia
<http://setbc.org/lcindexer/default.aspx>
- VIP Software Guides For users of Jaws or screen magnifiers <http://vip.chowo.co.uk/>

Youtube.com

- Humanware
- Hims inc.
- Freedomscientific
- Aisquared
- iPad with VoiceOver

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Figure 1 TSBVI logo.



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Figure 2 IDEAs that Work logo and disclaimer.