

Matching Common Categories of Assistive Technology to Student Learning Profiles-Secondary

Category of technology	What does it do?	Possible learning profiles	App or software examples
Text to speech (TTS)	Reads e-books, scanned texts, pdf files, information accessed on the web, e-mails. Translates text on screen to speech.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengths in the areas of auditory memory and verbal comprehension • better listeners than readers • students who need to hear a “backup” to what they are seeing in print • students with dysfluency which might affect comprehension • visual processing difficulties which affects tracking of text 	WordQ, (s, a) Natural Reader (s, free) Voice Dream (a) Kurzweil (s) Co:writer (s, a) Read and Write Gold (s, GC, a) ClaroRead (s) Write Online (s, a) Apple TTS (free) Microsoft TTS (free)
Word prediction (*Note-Not a stand alone tool, often provided with TTS tools)	Helps the student write by providing a list of words that fit into the sentence. Reduces the number of keystrokes necessary for typing words.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weak spellers, but can recognize whole words when a list is presented to them • students who write slowly 	WordQ,, iWordQ (s, a) Read and Write Gold (s, GC, a) Voice Dream (a) Kurzweil (s)

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Speech recognition	Converts spoken word to text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> difficulty writing/keyboarding due to fine motor issues (also for students with physical disabilities) written expression difficulties and reading disabilities stronger expressive language skills “mental exhaustion” due to severe reading disabilities 	Dragon Naturally Speaking (s, a) Apple Dictation (f) Microsoft Dictation (f)
Contextual grammar	Corrects the entire sentence while keeping with the writer’s intention, even in cases of extreme spelling or grammatical errors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> difficulty recognizing and selecting the correct word from a word list (ex. word prediction) demonstrates severe spelling errors in writing demonstrates grammatical errors in writing (prepositions, verb correction, pronouns, misused words, singular/plural) 	Ginger (s) Antidote (s) Medialexie (s) WhiteSmoke (s)
Concept mapping or Graphic organizers or Mind mapping	Allows student to classify ideas, communicate more effectively, and structure the writing process with concept maps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visual strengths difficulties with organization for the writing process difficulty with language concepts difficulties with problem-solving and decision-making 	Inspiration (s, a) Idea Sketch (a, free) Popplet (a) Tools4Students (a) Corkulous (a)

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Productivity (notetaking, research)	Provides a method of collecting and storing written and oral information easily Provides organizational system for notes/information Provides opportunity to reduce writing requirements and increase listening strategies Promotes retention by using visual strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • difficulty processing auditory information; • weak writers and spellers • weak memory/retrieval skills • difficulty isolating important information when taking notes • difficulty synthesizing and summarizing information • difficulty with organization/executive function 	Evernote (s, a, free) Skitch (a, free) Goodreader (a) Diigo (s, a) Notability (a) Paperport Notes (a) Inkflow (a)
Productivity (annotation)	Allows student to mark up or “annotate” on top of PDF, photos.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty with memory retention • Difficulty writing long passages, notes due to fine motor or reading difficulties • Strengths with visual information or visual memory • 	Skitch (a) GoodReader (a) PDFExpert (a)
Optical character recognition (OCR)	Scans documents from a mobile device. Most apps can then read the text using text to speech.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any student who needs to create turn printed text into a pdf (to be read or used for annotation later). 	Voxdox (a) Prizmo (a) Mobile OCR (a, free) Image to text (a, free)

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Alternative access/math	Provides the ability to solve math computation problems on the device	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students with visual tracking difficulties • students with physical disabilities that affect fine motor skills/handwriting • fine motor difficulties • students with dyscalculia • students with problem-solving difficulties 	Panther Math (a)
Visual learning	Provides students with visual tutorials as backup to auditory information provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students who need enhanced visual content due to auditory processing or language difficulties • students who need repetition of content (visual tutorials) or content presented in a differentiated manner • students who have strong visual skills 	Screenchomp (a, free) Explain Everything (a) Doodlecast (a) ShowMe (app, free)

*These are guidelines only. It is important to match the individual learning profile of the student to the technology.

*Interpreting and using the results of psychological and speech and language evaluations, developmental reading assessments and assistive technology assessment tools is necessary.

*Always consider the environment that the student will be working in when recommending specific products.

*This is not an exhaustive list of software and apps-just a sample of what is available.

S=software

A=app

GC=Google chrome app

F=free on PC or Mac (Microsoft 7 and 8 (PC) or Mountain Lion, Mavericks (Mac)

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