Assistive Technology & Embedded Technology

ONE DISTRICT’S APPROACH TO USING EXISTING TECHNOLOGY TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM
Overview

This will be a discussion on how Mesa Unified School District has utilized existing district and site-based technology resources to ensure accessibility in the classroom for students with disabilities. The presentation will be an overview of how Mesa’s Assistive Technology Department utilizes features and settings native to adopted platforms such as Windows 10, iOS, and Google Chrome on 1:1 and additional classroom hardware. Additionally, implementation of these resources, with the help of supplemental software, extensions, etc., that expand the capabilities of the technology, aligns with UDL and LRE principles, maximizes resources, and breaks down barriers that affect acquisition and use of assistive technology across varying learning environments will be discussed.

This discussion will include the considerations and collaborations of creating a viable and inclusive Assistive Technology Department with Administrative, Ed Tech, and IS considerations and cooperation. It will also highlight a systematic approach to building an AT department with district-wide considerations that address, financial restrictions, training, and long-term viability without sacrificing individual student supports, LRE, and IDEA.
Breaking Down Barriers

Mind Mapping/Brainstorming
Notetaking
Built-In Accessibility
Communication

Study Skills/Aids
Research Tools
Writing
Organization/Task Management

Dictation/Speech-to-Text/Speech Recognition
Time Management/Distraction Free

Vision
Hearing
Reading

Assistive Technology

Looking Back.....
The “New” Mid-Tech

*Current* technology is becoming increasingly accessible and is engineered with the diversity of its users in mind.

- Personalized learning experiences
- Access to settings and applications that address learning styles and needs
- Promotes lifelong learning
What Technology is Already in Place?

- Hardware
- Operating systems
- Productivity software
- Learning Management Systems (LMS)
- WiFi
- Google Chrome
- Student Chrome login and gmail
Restrictions and Challenges?

- Staff prior experience with tech and “professional” fatigue
- Technology barriers, such as “credential” restrictions
- Funds!
Getting a Seat at the Table

- Special Ed Administration
- Information Systems
- Educational Technology
- Purchasing
Best Practices - Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Special Ed - Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
Implementation
Work Completion & Accessible Content

- **Microsoft Word 2016**
  - Text-to-speech - [Using the Speak text-to-speech feature to read text aloud](#)
  - Speech Recognition (Dictate) – [Access the Dictate Add-on from Microsoft Garage](#)

- **Microsoft Office 2016**
Links - Accessibility Settings & Features

- Adobe
- Android
- Chrome browser and OS
- Edge
- Google Drive and productivity tools
- iOS
- Microsoft Office
- OS X
- Windows
Questions?
References/Resources

Papers:


Software:

Images: