Assistive Technology

The evaluation of need and selection of appropriate assistive technology is paramount to providing access to communication. Assistive Technology Partners works with CDE to support a network of assistive technology teams across all school districts in the state of Colorado. They provide assistive technology services in schools and classroom settings within their districts, with the intention of enabling students with disabilities to achieve full access and participation in all educational opportunities. Visit the SWAAAC website to learn more about SWAAAC activities, professional development opportunities, or to find a team coordinator for your district.

In addition, SWAAAC has several webinars on demand to learn more about a variety of assistive technology topics.

Integrating Tech Tools into Instruction

The integration of technology use in the classroom has spawned a generation of new tech tools for colleagues to share with professional learning networks. Many offer students with a disability and students who are struggling with certain tasks a more level playing field for accessing material and independently producing school work.

While it is impossible to list every single useful app or software, an **Assistive Technology team from Michigan's Region 3** has compiled a list of resources and summaries that contain helpful sites and tools. Note: some are free while others may require purchase.   (Information adapted from Jennifer Herseim's July 15, 2014 article for the LRP Special Ed Connection newsletter.)

Tech Tools	Description
Tar Heel Reader	A website with free, easy-to-read and accessible books with a wide range of topics. Accessible using multiple interfaces. Students can also author their own readers.
Storyline Online	A website with free, streaming audio books that are read by actors
Talk Typer	A website with free speech-to-text and speech recognition
Vocaroo	This website allows you to record a voice and send it to anyone. Students can dictate answers to any assignment and email the file to their teacher. Teachers can also speak directions and create a QR code that they can print out and tape to a book page or assignment. Vocaroo helps the student be successful in being able to speak instead of write or be able to listen instead of read text.
Evernote, Clearly	A website and app for keeping track of notes and websites to find them when you need them. Clearly helps remove clutter from web pages, news blogs, and articles.
Rewordify	A website that can reduce text complexity and help students learn what hard words and phrases mean with smart highlighting. Helpful to teach the skill of "hovering" to bring up a pop-up glossary. Student will have to select the definition of the word that is applicable in the given text.

Symbaloo	A free, visual bookmarking website. Teachers can host a Symbaloo page and assemble a set of selected resources for students and families that are easily accessible in one place. Great for your teacher's homepage.
Kidspiration	A website that presents a visual way of thinking and learning to organize ideas and to strengthen reading, writing, and math skills
Dragon Naturally Speaking	Voice-to-text software for students having difficulty accessing a keyboard; Dragon Dictate may also be used on an iPhone for student to dictate answer and text to teacher. *See Glossary for more speech to text options
My Study Bar	A set of portable open source and freeware applications to help students overcome problems commonly experienced with studying, reading and writing
Browsers and iPad Speak Selection: Speakit!, Readability, Speech Recognition, Google Dictionary, Select and Speak	Accessibility features of browsers and tablets
Livescribe	A digital smart pen that takes notes, records audio, connects the two and uploads
AnyBook Reader	A reading pen that records your voice so any book can be an audio book.
Mathtrain TV	A website with math videos created for students by students
Khan Academy	An educational website with many resources
IXL	A website where students can practice math and English skills online
AAA Math	A website with thousands of interactive math games
Math is Fun	A website designed to teach students math skills with puzzles, games, quizzes, worksheets and more
Em Power Math	Helps users produce images and equations for math and science
Math Paper	print various types of papers useful for math
StarChild	A NASA learning center for young astronomers
Windows to the Universe	Explore earth, space, and science at a chosen reading level in English or Spanish
Scholastic Student Activities	Teachers can access activities across all grade levels that are web-engaging, used for computer labs, and/or for interactive whiteboards
Newsela	Current event website that allows students to adjust the Lexile reading level of an article (free version and paid version)
Bookshare	An online accessible library, free to all students with print disabilities

Accessible Educational Materials	CAST national center on accessible educational materials for students with low vision or students with specific learning disabilities who have a print disability *Highly recommended to use during instruction for any student using the Unique Accommodation for Reading request
Inspiration 9	Software that applies visual learning concepts in reading and writing
Texas School for the Blind— Math	Materials and strategies for teaching math to students with visual impairments
Texas School for the Deaf – Math	ASL online sign dictionary for math terms
Virtual Manipulatives Virtual Manipulatives - Glencoe	A digital library of math activities organized by grade level and topic
Math Bits	Digital math resources for secondary students
iSolveIt	An app that supports the development of logical thinking and reasoning skills as essential competencies of algebra and mathematics
Co-writer app	An app that supports students' writing or spelling with word prediction
Notability iPad app review video	An app to help students take notes, type, draw and record
Dragon Dictation app	A free voice-to-text app that is easy to train
SoundNote	An app that tracks what you write, type or draw while recording (Mac)
Voice Dream Reader	A document reading tool that reads in many voices and in different document formats (Android)
Claro apps Claro PDF Claro Speak Claro Com Claro MagX	Accessible, professional and user-friendly PDF viewer, reader and annotator (free and paid) Text to speech reader (paid) iPad/iPhone AAC (free and paid) powerful high definition visual magnifier (iPhone/iPod Touch/iPad (free)
Show Me Whiteboard (You Tube Demo), Educreations, ScreenChomp	Apps for creating and sharing video lessons on a tablet; Recordable whiteboard useful for recording tutorials that can be sent home with students
Lower tech tools	Label maker, fraction calculator, talking calculator, misspellers' dictionary, wireless touchpad and keyboard mouse combo, highlighter tape, EZC reader guides, portable word processor, adapted paper, carbonless notetaking notebook, talking dictionary, and excel math supports

[Common Core State Standards K-12 Technology Skills Scope and Sequence](#)	Long Beach Unified School District produced this scope and sequence aligned to the CCSS standards (embedded in the Colorado Academic Standards) for English Language Arts/Litercy and Mathematics (Elementary and Secondary)