

Assistive Technology (AT) and Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) Tech Tips

SELDA

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Accessible Educational Materials (AEM)

- Accessible educational materials (AEM) are print, and technology based educational materials, including printed and electronic textbooks and related core materials that are designed or enhanced in a way that makes them usable across the widest range of learner variability, regardless of format (e.g. print, digital, graphic, audio, video).

AEM Basics. National Center on Accessible Educational Materials. <https://aem.cast.org/about/aem-basics.html>

Assistive Technology (AT)

- Assistive technology consists of devices and services. An assistive technology device is an item or piece of equipment that helps a person with a disability increase, maintain, or improve a student's functional capabilities. An assistive technology service is any service that directly assists a student with a disability in the selection, acquisition or use of the AT device.

Assistive Technology and Accessible Educational Materials Can...

- Give access to the general curriculum
- Ease frustration and break down barriers to learning
- Increase motivation and engagement
- Foster a sense of peer acceptance
- Improve productivity in the classroom and at home

IDEA states that assistive technology must be considered in developing individualized educational plans.

Read Alouds: Human and Digital Voicing

- [Audiobooks and digital TTS books](#) let you hear books read aloud. Some people like to read along with the book so they can see the words at the same time. Audiobooks are read by human voices. Digital TTS books are created with TTS and use computer-generated voices.
- Audio Text Examples and Testimonials
 - [Learning Ally and Audio Books](#)
 - [BookShare and Audio Books](#)

Text-to-Speech Benefits

- [Text-to-Speech](#) (TTS) lets you see text and hear it read aloud at the same time. To use this tool, you click on or highlight words, and the words are read by a computer-generated voice. TTS can be used with books, emails, web pages, and any digital text. It can also be used to convert text files into audio files.
- [Using Text to Speech \(4 minute and 33 second video\)](#)

Assistive Technology (AT) Short Videos

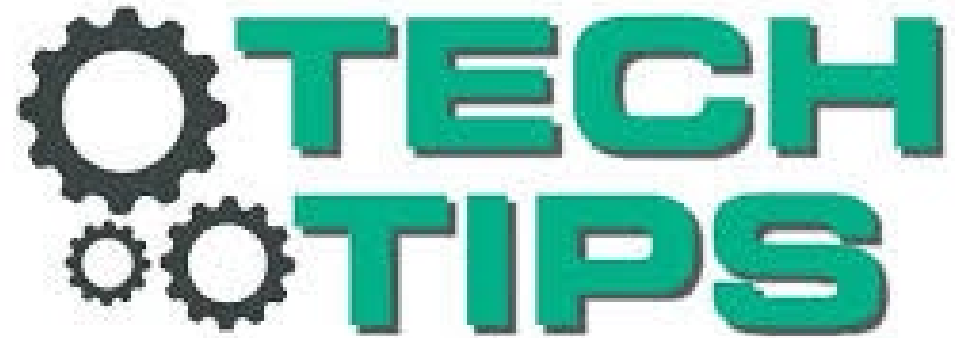
- **Audiobooks and digital TTS books**
 - [BookShare and Audio Books \(3 minute and 52 second video\)](#)
 - [Learning Alley and Audio Books \(4 minute and 49 second video\)](#)
- **Text-to-speech (TTS)**
 - [Using Text to Speech \(4 minute and 33 second video\)](#)
- **Speech to Text (Dictate)**
 - [Using Speech to Text \(3 min 46 second video\)](#)
- **Graphic organizers**
 - [Using Graphic Organizers \(2 minute and 53 seconds\)](#)

Take a Minute: 2 Additional Supports

APH InSights Calendar 2022



Featuring Artwork by Visually Impaired and Blind Artists
American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.



Language Translator

Microsoft Word has a built-in language translator and text-to-speech function, you can find the “Read Aloud” and “Translate” in the review tab of Microsoft word. Although translator is not 100%, it can be useful for English learners. You might even find it useful on your next trip to the French Riviera. Google has the same function in Google Docs, under the tools tab and it is called “Translate Document.”

Visual Organizers

- Did you ever use a graphic organizer in a lesson plan to make an idea or concept visually understandable? If you answered, “yes” then you may have given assistive technology to your students. Graphic organizers are helpful to some but necessary for others. They become assistive technology when they MUST be used by students to organize or solve problems.
- **Graphic organizers** are visual representations, like diagrams and mind maps, of ideas and concepts. Students can use graphic organizers to take notes while reading, which can help with comprehension. Graphic organizers can be digital or pen and paper.
- [Using Graphic Organizers video \(2 minute and 53 seconds\)](#)

Beep Baseball

- Hey, batter, batter. The weather is getting warmer so how about a nice game of beep baseball? What, you've never heard of beep baseball? Check out the National Association of Beep Baseball. Assistive technology is not only for academics.
- <https://www.nbba.org/> - National Beep Baseball Association
- <http://beepkickball.com/> - The Beep Kickball Association

Take a Minute: PreSurvey Questions Analysed

- N=277
- “I am able to explain Accessible Educational Materials...”
- “I am able to explain Assistive Technology...”
- “I am comfortable discussing the need for braille, large print...”
- “I am comfortable discussing the need for AT...”
- “I am comfortable making data-driven recommendations for braille, large print....”
- “I am comfortable making data-driven recommendations for AT...”

District

- Marietta
 - Paulding County
 - Tift County
- 0 differences found

Participant Role

- Classroom Teacher
 - Special Education Teacher
 - SLP
 - None of the Above
 - IEP Team Member
 - Prefer not to say
- more likely to indicated they are unable to explain AT/AEM
 - less likely to indicate they are comfortable explaining and/or making data-driven recommendations about AT/AEM

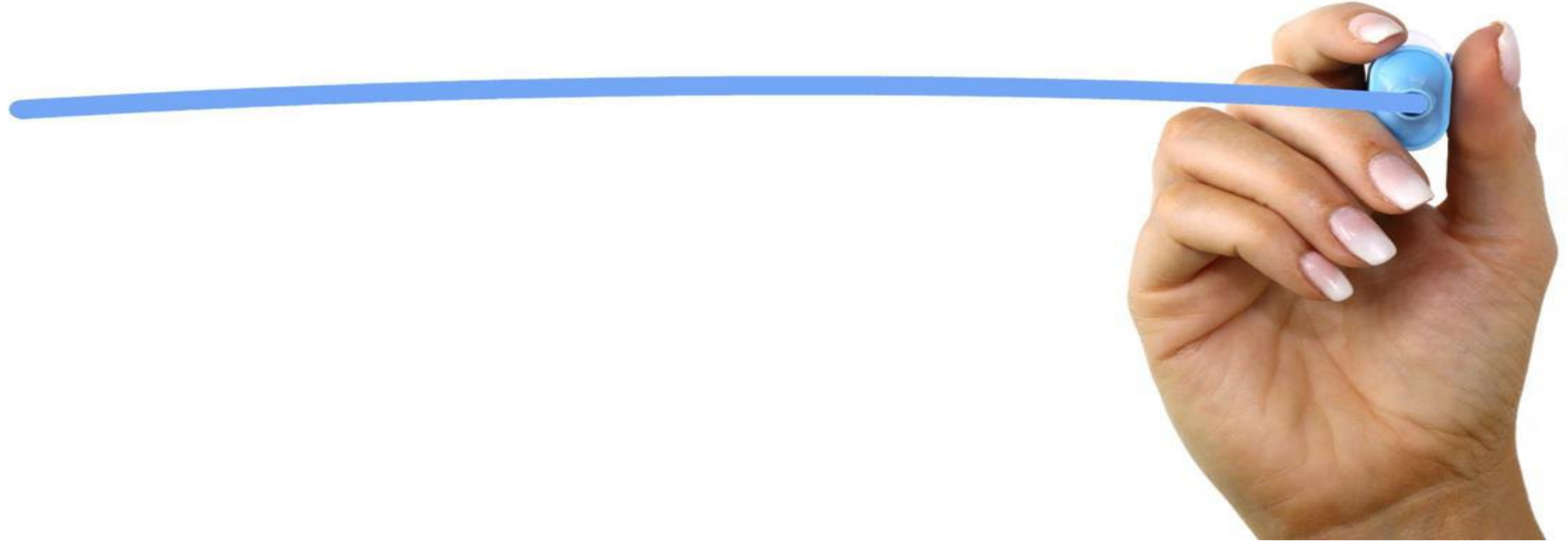
Years of Experience

- 5-year
 - 6-10 years
 - 11-15 years
 - 15+ years
- more likely to indicate they were more able to explain AT and make data-driven decisions about AT

Content Standard

- On-grade level content
- Alternative
- are less likely to indicate they are able to explain AT
- less likely to feel comfortable discussing braille, large print, AT, and so forth
- less likely to feel comfortable making data-driven recommendations about AT

QUESTIONS



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Georgia Department of Education

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