Assistive Technology Partnership GaDOE and Tools for Life

SELDA

Paula Gumpman September 15, 2021



Why an AT Partnership?

To build capacity and have a sustainable impact on Assistive Technology Services for grades K-12 throughout Georgia

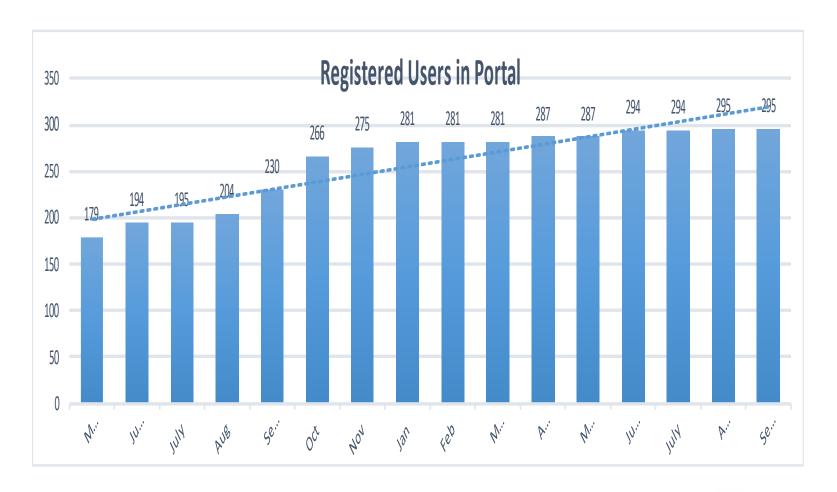


What is the AT Partnership?

- 1. Assistive Technology Consultation Services
- AT/UDL Software Program (Reading, Writing, Math, Study Skills)
- 3. Assistive Technology Lending Library
- 4. Ed Trade, Georgia Assistive Technology (AT) School Exchange Database
- 5. Discovery Surveys District Assistive Technology and Accessibility



Number of Unique Portal Users = 295





What is Consultation Services?

The purpose of this partnership is to support district personnel in building their capacity to support students with assistive technology needs.

What it IS:

- Consultation services by Tools for Life staff via teleconsulting and/or email
- 2. Discussion based on information provided by district contact
- 3. Coaching support for staff on implementation of evidence-based practices for assistive technology



What is Consolation Services?

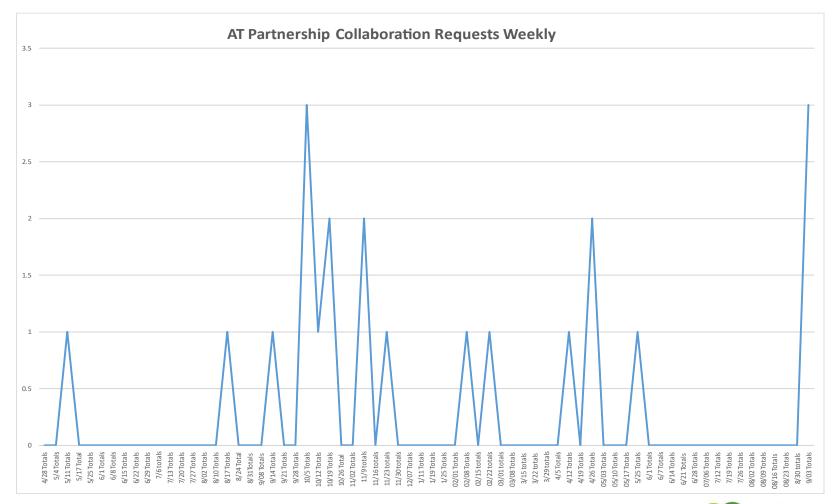
The purpose of this partnership is to support district personnel in building their capacity to support students with assistive technology needs.

What it IS NOT:

- 1. Direct student intervention.
- 2. Assistive technology evaluations.
- 3. Onsite consultations or evaluations.
- 4. Supplier of assistive technology devices beyond short term loan.



Consultation Requests = 20





What is AT/UDL Software?

Read&Write - Read&Write lets every student read, write and express themselves more confidently. Read&Write offers support with everyday tasks including reading text out loud, understanding unfamiliar words, researching assignments, writing and proofing written work. Read&Write works with the following platforms: Chrome, Edge, Windows, Mac OS, IPad and Android.



What is AT/UDL Software?

Equatio - Equatio lets everyone create mathematical equations, formulas, demos graphs, and more on their computer or Chromebook. Teachers or students can type, handwrite or dictate any expression, with no tricky coding or math languages to master. There is a huge library of ready-made expressions to save time, from simple formulas to complex functions. EquatIO works with the following platforms: Chrome, Windows, Mac OS, and Web App.

https://youtu.be/ffQDCSC67dQ



What is AT/UDL Software?

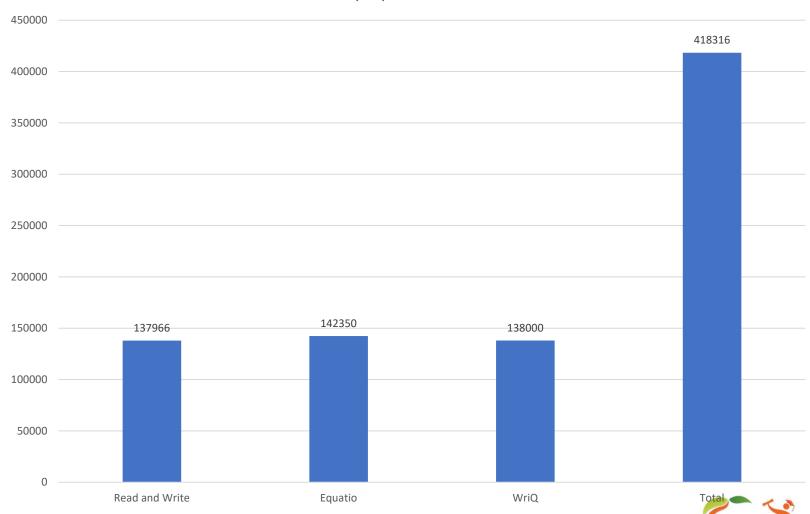
WriQ - WriQ is a writing achievement tool used to easily assess and motivate student writing while providing automated meaningful feedback and delivering a standardized benchmark for grading. It's faster, more accurate and consistent than traditional manual and subjective grading – giving students, parents, and teachers clear visibility of writing progress over time against peers and standardized norms. WriQ works with the following platform: Chrome.

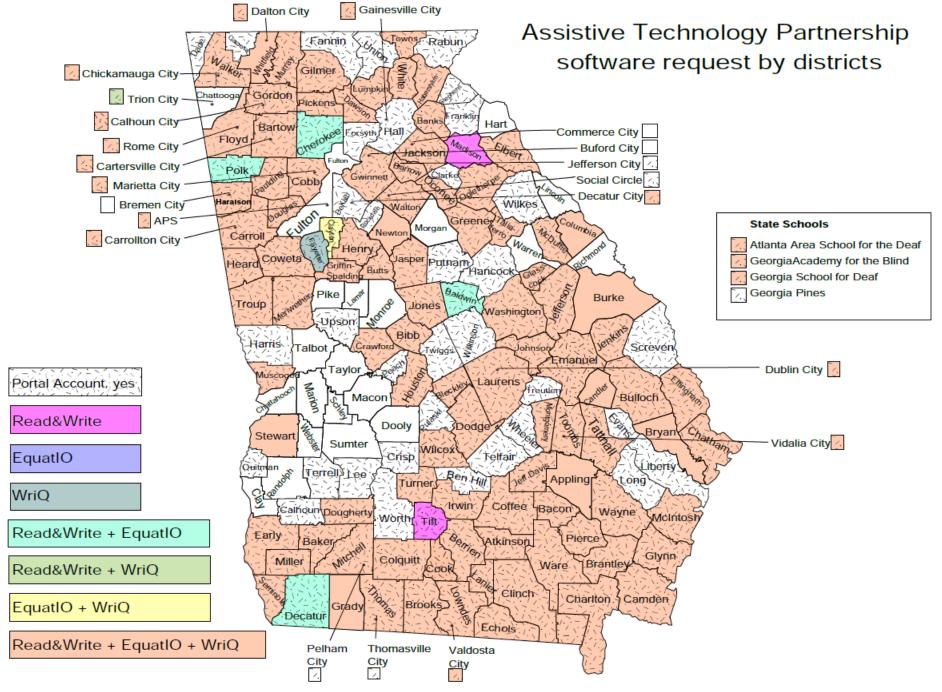
https://youtu.be/Ni5-nuxK6wU



Data - Software







What is the Lending Library?

What it IS:

- To assist in AT decision-making; make an informed purchasing decision
- To collect data substantiating the device meets the student's needs
- Try a device in a real-life environment
- To serve as a loaner while the student is waiting for repair or ordered device to be delivered
- To provide accommodation on a short-term basis to support professional development



What is the Lending Library?

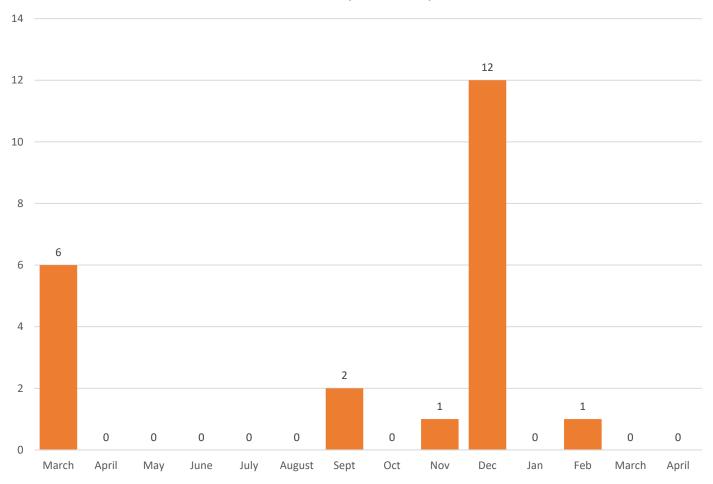
What it is NOT:

- Long-term or open-ended loans.
- Equipment for purchase.



Lending Library = 22

AT Partnetship Loan Requests

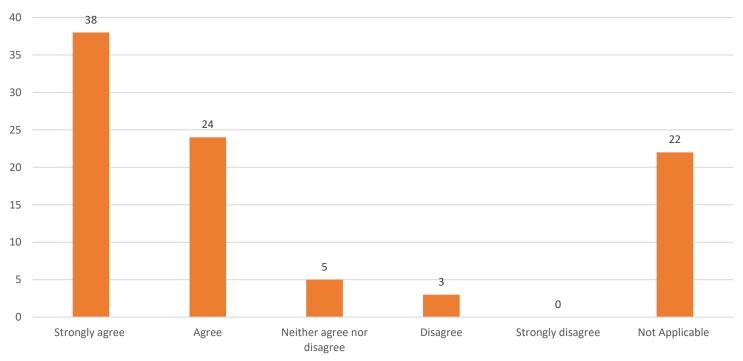




What is the Discovery Survey?

Tools for Life developed a survey and compiled the data to review the impact of the AT Partnership

Question: Use of the AT Portal was easy



Axis Title

Comments about Software

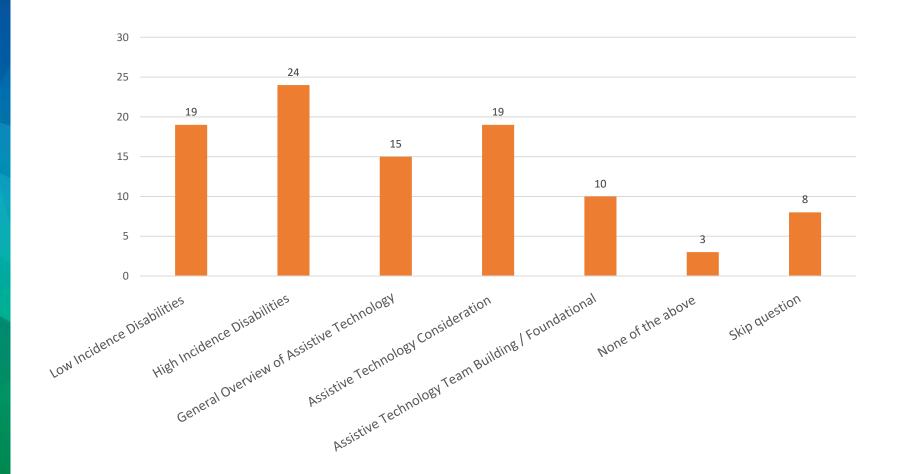
We could not have done virtual access for our higher incidence population without this partnership!

We are in the process of implementation right now. It took us a while to get it set up. I now have teachers interested in seeing the implementation and I am teaching them as it is requested.

Because of COVID closures and more virtual students, our usage by teachers and students has increased!

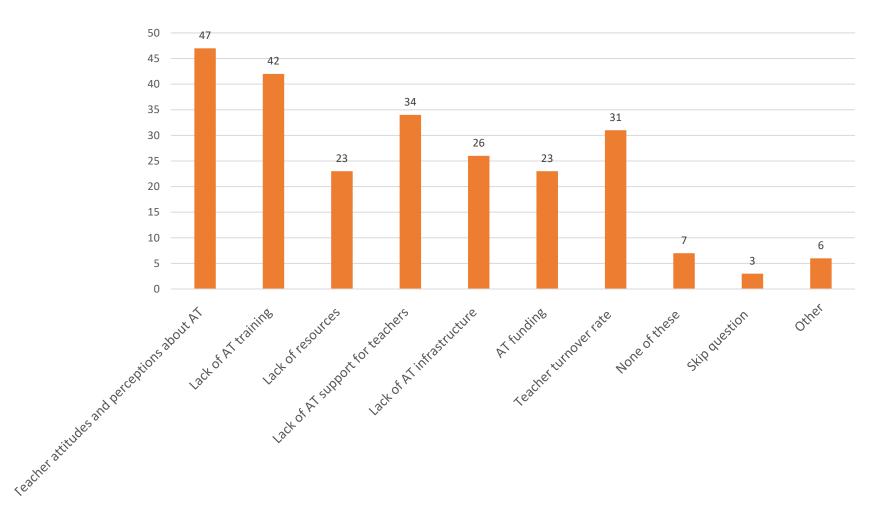
The software is extremely helpful and is growing in its use daily.

Question: Our district's greatest need for information about assistive technology is in the area of (check one)...





Question: The following has/have been a barrier to effective use of Assistive Technology in our district (select all that apply).





Resources to Support AT Use

- Text-to-Speech Technology: What it is and How it works (http://www.readingrockets.org/article/text-speech-technology-what-it-and-how-it-works)
- The Difference between Audiobooks and Text-to-Speech (https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/assistive-technologies-basics/the-difference-between-audiobooks-and-text-to-speech)
- 3. Will Digital accessible books improve reading for students with dyslexia? (https://www.edsurge.com/news/2015-01-27-will-digital-accessible-books-improve-reading-for-students-with-dyslexia)
- 4. The previously funded OSEP Center PowerUp WHAT WORKS (https://powerupwhatworks.org) and the Technology Research Briefs (https://powerupwhatworks.org/page-puww/technology-research-briefs) -https://powerupwhatworks.org/) -https://powerupwhatworks.org/)



Resources to Support AT Use

- 5. The National Center on Accessible Educational Materials (http://aem.cast.org/)
- Assessment and use of accommodations could be accessed through the Center on Technology and Disability (CTD) https://www.ctdinstitute.org/library/2018-09-19/improving-accommodations-outcomes-monitoring-instructional-and-assessment
- 7. Accessibility, Assessment and the Law What State Leaders Need to Know (https://www.ctdinstitute.org/library/2016-10-24/accessibility-assessment-and-law-what-state-leaders-need-know)

