

Project ACCESS: Accessing Curriculum Content for Special Education Students
A Basic Instructional and Assistive Technology Toolkit

Concept	General Use	Product and Vendor or Site	Specific Product Features
Operating system accessibility features	Useful adjustments for students with cognitive disabilities	Windows ME, 2000 and XP. Microsoft Corp. www.microsoft.com	Latch or Sticky keys High contrast Visual or auditory signals Mousekeys Magnifyer Screen narrator On-screen keyboard
Basic scanning procedures	Incorporating pictures and text into documents	Any flatbed scanner with accompanying software	Evaluate features such as quality and speed when comparing cost.
Advanced Word processing features	Widely available instructional software that can be adapted for student support and used as strategies for teaching learning standards.	Microsoft Word www.microsoft.com	Zoom box increases size of screen without increasing printed font size Automatic spell and grammar check Auto summary: reduces text to a percent of the original. Readability statistics(set in spelling and grammar options) Text reading options
Multi-media Programs	Incorporates sound, pictures, text, graphics, and movies. Launches websites and other programs Use to incorporate principles of Universal Design for Learning into teacher-generated instruction or student generated reporting. Increases student interest.	Power point www.microsoft.com Intellipics Studio IntelliTools, Inc. www.intellitools.com	Ubiquitous: bundled with office products on most machines. Simple features are easy to use. More sophisticated features require more documentation and support. Draw, painting, and other activities incorporated into the program. Instructional activities and templates with tutorial support for adaptation to most curriculum areas. Extensive picture library

		<p>Intellimathics IntelliTools, Inc. www.intellitools.com</p>	<p>May be most appropriate for elementary age students</p> <p>Combination multi media and electronic math manipulatives templates that correlate with NCTM Standards.</p>
Concept mapping	<p>Develop electronic concept maps in a variety of formats, from venn diagrams to flow charts. Includes pictures, art, digital photos, and voice. Outline view interfaces with a word processor or power point, providing a structure for writing or presentation activities.</p>	<p>Kidspiration</p> <p>Inspiration</p> <p>Both available from Inspiration Software, Inc. www.inspiration.com</p>	<p>Recommended for K-4</p> <p>Recommended for grades 4-adult</p>
Text to speech or “talking” word processors:	<p>Writing support Talking spell checks Can “read” digitized text Highlights text as it is read: by letter, word, sentence, or any combination.</p>	<p>Intellitalk II, IntelliTools, Inc. www.intellitools.com</p> <p>Write: Outloud Don Johnston, Inc. www.donjohnston.com</p>	<p>Incorporates pictures and rebus characters, large picture library Text to speech with template system for instructional support Easy to use word processor for younger students</p> <p>Simple design that easily mimics standard word processor</p>
Voice recognition or text to speech word processors	<p>Transcribes voice directly into a word processor. Requires reading skills for</p>	<p>Naturally Speaking Scan Soft, Inc. http://www.scansoft.com</p>	<p>Multiple editions with levels of sophistication to meet transcription requirements: professional, preferred, medical, legal, teen</p>

	training and editing. Quality of transcription dependent on a good quality microphone and quiet location.	om	Useful for higher functioning literate older students
Word prediction	Support for students with limited keyboard abilities/skills Supports word retrieval Spelling support	Co:Writer Don Johnston, Inc. www.donjohnston.com Word prediction features of Kurzweil 3000	Suggests words from “invented” spelling Predicts at multiple levels of difficulty Available in applet form for Alpha Smart (portable keyboard) Integrates with study skills features of the Kurzweil
Text to speech scan and read programs:	Scan and digitize books and other print media using optical character recognition (OCR). Once digitized, text can be read. Variety of products offering levels of ease, instructional support, and cost	Kurzweil 3000 Kurzweil Educational Systems, Inc. http://www.kurzweil.com	Scans in color or black and white. Advanced study skills features allow teachers to insert research based strategies directly into text areas. Split screen technology allows extraction of notes and outlines. Read only version allows for multiple users in a lab or library to reduce costs.
Support for arithmetic calculations:	Electronic worksheet. Permits student to work out an algorithm without revealing the answer	Math Pad and Math Pad Plus Available from: IntelliTools, Inc. www.intellitools.com	Problem sets can be entered into the program. Supports fractions and decimals with electronic manipulatives. Allows scanning for single switch access.

Portable keyboards	Inexpensive, durable, portable method for keyboarding. Can print with cable or transfer to word processor on a desktop.	Alpha Smart Pro Intelligent Peripheral Devices www.ndiap.org	Applets for text to speech, word prediction, and concept mapping.
Alternate keyboard	Allows non-standard input; can reduce cognitive load by limiting keyboard choices	Intellikeys IntelliTools, Inc. www.intellitools.com	Customization through use of overlays (standard) or develop through the program Overlay Maker
Universal Design for Learning	Three principles to guide lesson development in presentation, learner expression, and interest	Center for Applied Special Technology www.cast.org	On-line book describing universal design for learning and brain research