

Assistive Technology Solutions for Students with Learning Disabilities



Adaptive
Technology
Center for
New Jersey
Colleges

Writing Solutions

Talking Word Processing: Word processing programs with text-to-speech features read aloud text as students type. This helps students edit and proofread their written work.

Product	Vendor	Website
Read & Write	textHELP	www.texthelp.com
Write:OutLoud	Don Johnston, Inc.	www.donjohnston.com
WordQ 2	WordQ	www.wordq.com
SOLO	Don Johnston, Inc.	www.donjohnston.com

Graphic Organizers: These programs are used in the pre-writing stage to help students organize their thoughts. With the click of the mouse, a concept map can be turned into a text outline.

Product	Vendor	Website
Inspiration	Inspiration	www.inspiration.com
Draft:Builder	Don Johnston, Inc.	www.donjohnston.com

Portable Notetakers: These sturdy, lightweight keyboards are a more affordable option than a laptop computer for taking notes in class. They interface with a student's computer and printer, so files can be transferred and/or printed easily.

Product	Vendor	Website
Dana	AlphaSmart, Inc.	www.alphasmart.com
Neo	AlphaSmart, Inc.	www.alphasmart.com
Fusion	The Writer Learning Systems	www.writerlearning.com

Speech Recognition: Students dictate into a microphone and their words appear on the computer screen. Speech recognition software requires very powerful computers with a lot of memory, adequate time to train both the computer and the user, and users who are very comfortable with computers.

Product	Vendor	Website
Dragon Naturally Speaking Preferred	Nuance	www.nuance.com
ViaVoice	IBM	www.dragonsystems.com
iListen	Mac Speech	www.macspeech.com
SpeakQ	Quillsoft	www.wordq.com

Word Prediction: Word prediction software helps students who have significant spelling and/or word finding problems. As a student starts to type a word, the software presents a list of predicted words from which the student can choose. Clicking on the word adds it to the sentence, and typing final punctuation transfers the sentence into an open word processing document. Topic dictionaries can be set up with specialized vocabulary for specific course work.

Product	Vendor	Website
Co:Writer	Don Johnston, Inc.	www.donjohnston.com
Read & Write	textHELP!	www.texthelp.com
WordQ 2	Quillsoft	www.wordq.com
SOLO	Don Johnston, Inc.	www.donjohnston.com

Test Taking: These programs provide students with electronic versions of tests. Questions and answers can be highlighted and read aloud for students who struggle with reading; answers can be typed on the computer for students who have difficulty with handwriting. The completed test is then printed out for submission.

Product	Vendor	Website
Test Talker	Freedom Scientific	www.freedomscientific.com
Kurzweil 3000	Kurzweil Educational Systems	www.kurzweiledu.com

Reading Solutions

Electronic Text Readers: Electronic text readers also read aloud and highlight text, but they can read only text that is already in an electronic format, for example, internet sites or word processing files. E-readers do not contain the optical character recognition software that is needed to scan in printed text, but at \$199 they are a low cost solution for reading aloud eText.

Product	Vendor	Website
eReader	CAST	www.cast.org
PDF Aloud	textHELP	www.texthelp.com
Premier Assistive Technology Suite	Premier Assistive Technology	www.premier-programming.com
TextAloud	NextUp Technologies	www.nextup.com
ReadPlease	Read Please Corporation	www.readplease.com
Reading Bar 2 for Internet Explorer	Read Please Corporation	www.readplease.com
SOLO	Don Johnston, Inc.	www.donjohnston.com
WordQ 2	WordQ	www.wordq.com

Talking Dictionaries: Talking dictionaries allow students to type in words they are not able to read/spell in a phonetic order and the dictionary will not only pull-up the word phonetically, but it will read the word, the definition and synonyms aloud for the student.

Product	Vendor	Website
Test Talker	Freedom Scientific	www.freedomscientific.com
Speaking Language Master	Franklin	www.franklin.com

Digital Book Readers: Digital book readers are portable CD players that read DAISY-compatible audiobooks. They provide CD navigation functions and playback features. These portable players are recommended for students and adults in grades 7 and up.

Product	Vendor	Website
Telex Scholar	Telex Communications	www.telex.com/Talkingbook/Default.aspx
Victor Vibe	VisuAide	www.visuaide.com www.rfd.org
Professor	Telex Communications	www.telex.com www.rfd.org
Victor Wave	Humanware	www.humanware.com www.rfd.org

Software Playback Systems: Software playback systems are full-featured software packages designed to play RFB&D's AudioPlus CD books on a desktop or laptop computer. They are specially designed with the blind and visually impaired community in mind and have a well designed user interface for individuals with learning disabilities.

Product	Vendor	Website
eclipseReader	Innovative Rehabilitation Technology, Inc.	www.eclipsereader.com
Victor Reader Soft <small>*available as a free download with membership to Bookshare.org</small>	VisuAide	www.visuaide.com www.rfd.org www.bookshare.org
ghPlayer	gh LLC	www.ghbraille.com

Scan/Read Systems: Scan/read systems combine software and a flatbed scanner to read aloud any printed text. Textbook pages, class handouts, and tests can be scanned in and then read aloud by a computer. A clear visual display highlights the text as it is being read. A built-in talking dictionary, a study skills tool bar, and a writing tool bar are additional helpful features.

Product	Vendor	Website
Kurzweil 3000	Kurzweil Educational Systems	www.kurzweiled.com
WYNN	Freedom Scientific	www.freedomscientific.com/WYNN/index.asp
Read & Write Gold	TextHelp	www.texthelp.com