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Selected Resources :Technology to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners

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Today educators need to be equipped with many tools so they will be prepared to work with a diverse student population. The following is a list of selected, websites, publications, and other technology solutions that will put more tools in the educators' tool box.

- **CAST Center for Applied Special Technology**

With Universal Design for Learning (UDL) as a blueprint, CAST researches and develops ways to support all learners according to their individual strengths and needs.

On this site, you'll learn how CAST's Research & Development, which draws on the latest brain research and multimedia technology, translates into more effective professional development, policy and practice, products, and publications.

<http://www.cast.org/>

- **Digital Content in the Classroom**

A resource page available at the CAST website. This is an extensive list of links to digital text resources.

http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/toolkits/tk_resources.cfm?tk_id=41

Tutorials, sample lesson plans and templates for differentiated learning

The Teaching Every Student (TES) section of the CAST Web site supports educators in learning about and practicing Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

-UDL is a framework that can help you turn the challenges posed by high standards and increasing learner diversity into opportunities to maximize learning for every student.

-Drawing upon new knowledge of how the brain works and new technologies and media now available for teaching and learning, UDL frames a systematic approach to setting goals, choosing or creating flexible materials and media, and assessing students accurately.

<http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/>



Michigan's Assistive Technology Resource is an IDEA Mandated Activity Project offered through the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services

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The Michigan Department of Education complies with all Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination, and with all requirements of the U.S. Department of Education.

- **Using Flexible Technology to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners: What Teachers Can Do**

This is a 12 page companion article to a website [Technology Tips for Differentiated Instruction](#) which gives in-depth classroom examples. Many general education teachers are turning to differentiated instruction to help them meet their students' diverse learning needs. This Knowledge Brief explains how some standard technology resources already available at most schools talking text, Web resources, graphic organizers, and word processors can be used to support more tailored instruction. It also tells readers where to find more technology tips.

http://www.wested.org/online_pubs/kn-05-01.pdf

- **Technology Tips for Differentiated Instruction**

RTEC at WestEd is working in partnership with the Alliance for Technology Access to create this website, a PowerPoint presentation, handouts for each tip, and more.

Technology Tips are: focused on technologies most schools already have for use in professional development of technology - for general and special educators, and staff.

http://rtecechange.edgateway.net/cs/rtecp/view/rtec_str/11

- **Using Technology to Enhance Learning**

Eight middle school classroom examples that illustrate how technology can enhance instruction.

<http://www.sedl.org/pubs/tec26/classtech.html>

- **Handouts for Technology Tips for Differentiated Instruction**

These handouts, covering all the Tech Tips, were designed for professional developers to use within their existing efforts to help teachers integrate technology into the curriculum

http://rtecechange.edgateway.net/cs/rtecp/view/rtec_files/123

- **Technology Integration Resources**

The K-6 technology-integrated units were developed for use by Kent School District, (KSD) teachers, many of whom may just recently have acquired the technology in their buildings or classrooms required for these units. They were designed with teachers just beginning with technology in mind as a way of providing completed units directly correlated with current KSD curriculum. Many units also have extensions and are also very appropriate for those teachers already using technology in their classrooms. Each unit focuses on a curriculum topic combined with technology that meets the KSD technology standards at that grade level.

Learn why scaffolding student learning is important and how to create scaffolds for classroom use. Includes instruction on hidden text, embedded documents, forms, hyper linking, interactive pictures and more. KSD teacher-created ready-to-use templates & activities that support student learning are also available.

http://www.kent.k12.wa.us/curriculum/tech/tech_int.html



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- **Technology Integration: Unit Planning**

http://www.kent.k12.wa.us/curriculum/tech/proj_plan.html

- **The Assistive Technology Training Online Project (ATTO)**

Provides information on Assistive Technology applications that help students with disabilities. University at Buffalo, Center for Assistive Technology

<http://atto.buffalo.edu/>

- **Begin With ME!**- Frank Miracola and Susan Hardin Macomb ISD, MI

The Begin With ME! Toolkit includes simple, cost-effective software and hardware solutions for writing. Tools include talking word processors, word prediction software, graphic origination software, note takers, spell checkers and a variety of tech/no tech options. These tools are used in a variety of ways throughout all areas of the writing process; planning, prewriting, draft writing, and editing. Because the tools fit so naturally into the writing process and are available to every student when writing occurs they become a natural part of the writing process.

<http://www.beginwithme.misd.net>

- **Supports Lists: Tools and Strategies to Support Access to Standards-Based Learning for Diverse Learners**

This document provides categorized lists of no tech, low tech, mid tech, and high tech tools and strategies which can address barriers to student learning. It is part of the Student Access Map framework and provides ideas for incorporating a range of assistive technologies into the learning environment.

Boston Public Schools Access Technology Center

<http://boston.k12.ma.us/teach/technology/emmanuel/SupportsList.pdf>

- **Reaching an Audio Learner with MP3 Files, Nancy Powell**

<http://www.teachersnetwork.org/ntol/howto/incorpotech/mp3files.htm>

- **QuizStar**

A FREE Web-based program, Create quizzes for students to take and review online.

<http://quizstar.4teachers.org/>

- **The Visual Thesaurus**

A dictionary and thesaurus with an intuitive interface that encourages exploration and learning.

<http://www.visualthesaurus.com/overview.jsp>



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- **Refdesk.com**

On the Internet since 1995, a free and family-friendly site that indexes and reviews quality, credible, and current reference resources.

<http://www.refdesk.com/>

- **Dictionary.com, Thesaurus.com, Reference.com**

<http://dictionary.reference.com/>

- **Sparknotes.com**

SparkNotes is an internet-based youth-orientated education product. December 2002 SparkNotes, with millions of registered users (as of Jan 2005 around 10 million) became the most popular stand-alone education site on the Internet. Originally a collection of free online study guides for books and associated message board services, current owner Barnes & Noble now markets printed versions of the guides in the United States in a format similar to that of CliffsNotes.

<http://www.sparknotes.com/help/>

- **E Book Resources**

<http://atto.buffalo.edu/registered/ATBasics/Curriculum/Reading/electronicbooks.php>

- **Digital Resources for Books**

This document was created by Wayne RESA Assistive Technology Resource Center

http://www.resa.net/atrc/staff_resources.htm

- **Wikipedia**

The biggest multilingual open access encyclopedia on the internet. Over 500000 articles and still growing

<http://www.wikipedia.org/>

- **Resources for Low Tech Literacy Accommodations**

This document was created by Wayne RESA Assistive Technology Resource Center.

http://www.resa.net/atrc/staff_resources.htm

Interactive Online Math Activities for Elementary Students, Parents and Families

This is just a sampling of the huge variety of free, interactive resources available on the internet

http://www.resa.net/atrc/staff_resources.htm

Books on CD-ROM

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