Top Ten Transition Tech Tools:
Common Assistive Technology Tools Used in Postsecondary Education

Rachel Kruzel, ATP
ISHA Conference 2020
February 8th, 2020
Learning Outcomes

▪ Build awareness of the most common assistive technology tools used to support students with disabilities in postsecondary education

▪ Acquire tools to bring back to their schools so they can better prepare students for the types of tools they will see in postsecondary education.

▪ Understanding of similar tools used in postsecondary education that may be used currently with students in K-12 that they work to better understand the commonalities of AT between K-12 and postsecondary education.
Agenda

- Technology in Higher Education
- Assistive Technology Consideration in Higher Education
- Top Ten Transition Tools
  - Literacy
  - Writing
  - Notetaking
  - Executive Functioning (organization, time, task management)
Technology in Higher Education

- Technology is central to the education of students in higher education
  - Central to the culture
  - Central to the curriculum
  - Central to providing accommodations (Assistive Technology)

- Google and Microsoft are leaders in the higher education field
  - 50% of schools are Google School
  - 50% are Microsoft 365 schools

- Always new tools coming to campuses to support students’ education
AT Consideration in Higher Ed

- Colleges and universities will provide assistive technology to students if they provide access to the curriculum, the classroom, or the content.

- However, not all assistive technology will be provided.

- Some tools are personal devices:
  - Calculators
  - Wheelchairs
  - Laptops
Scope of Tools

- AT provided may be high cost; some may be low cost or free
- AT provided may be high tech; some may be low tech
- Scope of tools and cost of tools varies school to school
Preference of AT Tools

- Preference of AT does not mean automatic access to tool
- Schools will take into account the tools a student used (successfully) in the past
- Not mandated to use same tool
- Can use an equally effective tool to provide equal access
- Student should know not just the AT tool name, but what the tool does as well
  - “I used Read&Write for the text-to-speech function within Google Drive. I also use the dictionary and the highlighters.”
Advocacy of AT Tools

- Advocacy is huge in higher education
- Students should be able to advocate:
  - About their disability
  - How it impacts them
  - Their strengths and weaknesses
  - What they used before that helped them
  - What the names of the AT tools they used before
  - What function the tool did

- Advocacy of Assistive Technology is Central!
Two Tools to Help Transition

  - Student Self-Evaluation Matrix
  - 10 indicators on a 1-5 scale for students to take to track their AT knowledge and awareness
  - Create Action Plan to improve skills in these areas
  - Take yearly to track

- Toolkit4Transition: [https://www.toolkit4transition.com/](https://www.toolkit4transition.com/)
  - Tool to track AT tools used and mastery level of tools
  - Take yearly or continual use to track over time
Top Ten Tools

Demonstrations
Tools – Literacy/Writing Support

1. Read&Write
2. Microsoft Learning Tools
3. EquatIO
4. Google Voice Typing
5. One Note
Tools – Notetaking & Executive Functioning Support

6. Smartpens
7. Sonocent Audio Notetaker
8. Otter.AI
9. Noteability
10. Gsuite or Microsoft 365 Calendar, Tasks, Organization Tools
Livescribe Echo Smartpens
Livescribe Aegir Smartpens

- New Smartpens
- Aegir series
  - Dolphin & Marlin
- Released this Fall 2018
Top 20 Tools

11. Kurzweil
12. MinimaList
13. Voice Dream Reader
14. Ginger
15. Balabolka
16. Cold Turkey
17. Learning Ally Link
18. Grammarly
19. Ava
20. Captioning with AI Technology
Questions?
Contact Me

Rachel Kruzel, ATP
Assistive Technology Professional, RESNA Certified
Assistive Technology, Accessibility, & Transition Consultant

Email: rlkruzel.assistivetech@gmail.com
Twitter: @rachelkruzel