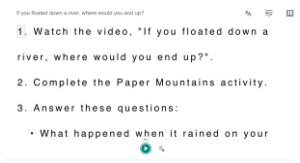
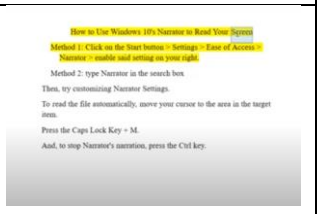
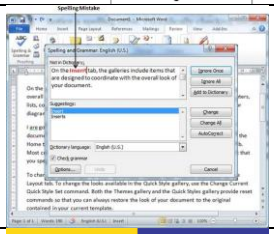
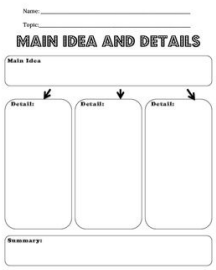
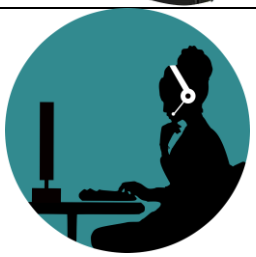
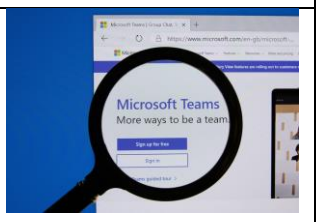
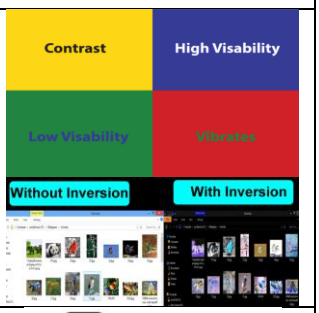
Common Assistive Technology Tools

Click this link for more information about how to utilize some of these assistive technology tools:
SAU19 Technology Support Help Desk - SAU19 Knowledge Base - Accessibility and Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology Tool	Description	Reason For Use	Visual Example
Text-to-Speech (Microsoft Immersive Reader, Google Screen Reader, Built-in Device Text-to-Speech Tools)	Reads the text on the screen aloud. This can include websites, documents, emails, texts, etc. It cannot read flat files such as images.	• Reading Support • Support for Learning Disability and/or Dyslexia	
Screen Reader (Built in accessibility screen reader tools - Narrator for Windows and VoiceOver for IOS)	Describe everything on a computer screen, including text, buttons, and alt text. This can be used as audio or braille support	• Low Vision Support and Blindness Support	
Speech-to-Text (Voice Dictation) (Microsoft Dictate, Google Voice Typing, Built-in Device Dictation Tools)	Types what is vocally dictated into a microphone for the user.	• Handwriting Support • Spelling Support • Typing Support • Physical Access Support • Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Support • Low Vision and Blindness Support	
Word Prediction (Microsoft Predictive Text)	When typing, a list of words populates for the user to choose from.	• Spelling Support • Slow Typing Support	
Spell Check/Grammar Check (Microsoft Editor, Google Spelling and Grammar Check)	Highlights misspelled words and suggest spelling/grammar corrections.	• Spelling Support • Grammar Support	
Background Colors/Fonts (Microsoft Immersive Reader, Built-in Device Dictation Tools)	Choose from different colored backgrounds or various fonts to make the text clearer and easier to see. Sans Serif and Monospaced fonts meet accessibility requirements.	• Reading Support • Vision Support/ Cerebral Vision Impairment (CVI) Support • Dyslexia Support • Focused View	
Screen Masking/Mouse Spotlight	Screen masking is the ability to move a colored highlighter down the screen as a user reads, lighting up only the line	• Reading Support • Vision Support/ Cerebral Vision	

(Microsoft Immersive Reader, Built-in Device Dictation Tools)	that is being read. Mouse Spotlight shines a light around the mouse making it easier to track.	Impairment (CVI) Support • Dyslexia Support • Tracking and Focus	
Graphic Organizers (printed or digital)	Assists with organizing thoughts to create a presentation or to write a paper.	• Writing Support • Executive Functioning Support • Organizational Support	
Mouse (wired or wireless)	Move the devices mouse with better ease than a touchpad. There are several types of mice, including joysticks and trackballs.	• Easier navigation • Physical Access Support • Ergonomic Support	
Headset (with or without microphone)	Allows sound to play directly near the user's ears, cancelling some of the room noise. Allows sounds to be played directly for the user and not everyone in a room. Headsets with microphones allow speech-to-text software to have higher dictation success.	• Speech and Dictation Support • Private Listening • Auditory Support • Supports Focus and Attention • Noise Cancelling	
Magnification (digital or handheld) (Microsoft Immersive Reader, Built-in Device Dictation Tools)	Ability to magnify a screen, text, or other objects, making them easier to see.	• Low Vision Support	
Braille (printed or digital display) (Built-in Device Dictation Tools - Narrator)	Printed braille allows a blind user to read text. Braille display allows a blind user to connect a device to a computer or laptop or use a standalone device that will read everything from the screen as digital braille.	• Low Vision and Blindness Support	
FM System for Sound Amplification	A speaker wears the FM microphone, and the sound of their voice will be amplified through speakers in the room, by an individual's headphone/hearing aids, or a combination of both.	• Auditory Support • Supports Focus and Attention	

Captioning and Translations (Kaltura Closed Captioning, Microsoft Live Captioning, Microsoft Translation Tools, Microsoft Immersive Reader Translations	Words that are spoken during a presentation, video, tv, etc. will be displayed to read. Words that need to be translated into another language can easily be changed as well.	• Supports Access/Accessibility • Literacy Support • Various Language Support • Support for Individuals that are Deaf or Who Have Difficulty Hearing	
Invert Colors/Dark Mode/High Contrast (Built-in Device Dictation Tools)	Inverted colors, white text on black background, and other high contrast options can be used in the device's accessibility settings to make the screen easier to see.	• Low Vision Support/ Cerebral Vision Impairment (CVI) • Supports Screen Fatigue	
Timers (Promethean Timer)	Provide visual time cues.	• Time Management Support • Supports Easier Transitions • Supports Focus and Attention	
Visual Schedules	Visual displays of schedules or tasks to complete including choice boards, calendar, first-then supports, etc.	• Time Management Support • Visual Scheduling Reminders • Supports Easier Transitions • Emotional Regulation Support • Breaks Down Tasks	
Switches	Allows a user to control a device using buttons/switches that are easier to touch/manipulate.	• Physical Access Support • Provides Alternative Navigation/Access	
AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication)	Symbol and/or text-based apps and devices that support communication through the touch of buttons.	• Communication support/provides alternative communication	
Flexible Seating	Allows the user to choose from various seating options such as chairs, yoga balls, wiggle seats, etc.	• Supporting Choice and Control of Environment • Supports Movement Needs • Supports Focus and Attention • Physical Body Supports	

Pencil Grips	Use of tools to assist in holding a writing tool and correcting grasp. There are various pencil grip options to choose from.	• Fine Motor Support • Writing Support • Correcting Grasp • Support Access	
Sensory Tools	Use of tools and fidget toys to assist with sensory regulation.	• Sensory Regulation • Supports Focus and Attention	