Region AT Representatives
Sponsored by MN Regions 5 & 7

Benton-Stearns—Kelly Peterson
Buffalo—Shannon Steffens
Elk River—No representative
Freshwater—Eric Weber
Little Falls—Jeannie McKee
MAWSECO—Shawna Moe
Mid-State—Ashley Thompson
Group Facilitator & Editor—Barb Lhotka

Paul Bunyan—Margaret Knebel
Regional Low Incidence Facilitator—Mary Ruprecht
Rum River—Jenny Groess
St Cloud—Barbara Commers/Pamela Moening
SCRED—Connie Sim
Sherburne-Northern Wright—Joran Swedzinski
West Central—Cindy Ostrander

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Calendar of Events

2014-2015 REGIONAL MEETINGS
Benton-Stearns Ed District Office, Sartell MN 9:00 A.M. – 11:30 P.M.

- **September 16**—Models of Service for AT; Components of an AT Program
- **October 7**—AT in Due Process—Consideration/Assessment/IEP
- **November 5**—Accessibility: Word, PPT, PDF; Switches and Bluetooth
- **December 3**—Resource Lists: Website/Apps; Tools Used in AT
- **January 7**—Resource Lists: Website/Apps; Tools Used in AT
- **February 4**—Resource Lists: Website/Apps; Tools Used in AT
- **March 4**—Resource Lists: Website/Apps; Tools Used in AT; Planning for 2015-16
- **April 1**—Resource Lists: Website/Apps; Tools Used in AT
- **May 6**—Google, Chrome, Dropbox, Wiki

32nd ANNUAL CLOSING THE GAP CONFERENCE
Minneapolis MN

- Pre-Conference Sessions: October 13-14, 2014
- Conference Sessions: October 15-17, 2014

CHARTING THE CS CONFERENCE
Arrowwood, Alexandria, MN

- Pre-Conference Sessions: April 25-26, 2015

AT Information: Listservs

AT Listserv
The AT Listserv is a wonderful resource for educators who work with students who use technology for learning. Members ask questions, share information, and discuss topics that are relevant to our day-to-day work with students ages birth through 21.

How to Join: To subscribe, visit [https://webmail.mnet.state.mn.us/mailman/listinfo/assistive-tech](https://webmail.mnet.state.mn.us/mailman/listinfo/assistive-tech) or send a message with the word “help” in it to the request address, assistive-tech-request@lists.state.mn.us for further instructions.

To Post on the Listserv: Send message to assistive-tech@lists.state.mn.us. Complete the subject line identifying the topic of your post. Type your message and send it. Remember confidentiality when posting!

QIAT Listserv
The Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology (QIAT—pronounced quiet) listserv is a place to share resources, questions ideas, and problem-solving in an on-going email discussion (there are archives and a website of resources to assist you, too). To sign up, go to the following website [http://qiat.org](http://qiat.org) and follow the links to join the listserv.
Lots of Random Resources

At the March 4, 2015, Regions 5 & 7 Assistive Technology Community of Practice meeting, there were many resources shared. This newsletter contains the resources discussed. There are no special topics, no recommendations, just discussion items. Please investigate further those that apply to your caseload.

Access to Independence
Michelle L. Lange, OTR/L, ABDA, ATP/SMS, has a website that features many of the handouts from her trainings. On the list of available materials are:

- Positioning Chart (seating challenges and solutions)
- Complex Rehab Power Wheelchair Electronics Comparison Chart
- Indoor Power Mobility Chart
- Outdoor Power Mobility Chart
- Pre-mobility Training Guidelines
- Mobility Training Guidelines
- Multifunction Electronic Aids to Daily Living Comparison Chart (switch/remote environmental control)
- Basic Electronic Aids to Daily Living (updated)
- Telephones, Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS), and Pagers
- Adaptive Toys Handout
- Mounting Chart
- Computer Access Hierarchy (recently updated)

Source: www.atilange.com

Boardmaker Curriculum: Expedition Education and Book Bridge

“Boardmaker Expedition Education is a rigorous academic curriculum, designed to transform students with special needs in 3rd grade and higher into readers, writers, and thinkers.” Source: www.spectronics.com.au/product/boardmaker-expedition-education/print

“Boardmaker Book Bridge is a curriculum to help students with special needs meet modern academic standards for reading, writing, and vocabulary development through grade level literature.” Source: www.spectronics.com.au/product/boardmaker-book-bridge/print

Boardmaker Training
The Boardmaker Online Help and Training website includes many resources for Boardmaker users. There are sections that include: articles on getting started, tutorials, how-to-videos, implementation ideas, an online user’s guide, and community forums. Source: http://helpandtraining.boardmakeronline.com/

Bookshare Web Reader
Bookshare Web Reader is a way for individual membership holders to use an internet browser and a screen reader to download and read books online in the browser. Font size and color can be adjusted. The accessibility features of Chrome are recommended for the browser. Source: www.bookshare.org

Funding for iPads
There are a variety of sources for funding iPads for use with individual students or with classroom groups. The iTaalk Autism Foundation website lists resources in seven areas for funding iPads. Source: http://www.itaalk.org/#!ways-to-get-an-ipad/c2or1
iPads in Special Education
The NSSEo Wiki features a long list of resources regarding iPads. The topics include:
- iPads and the SETT Process
- iPad Management (process to check them out)
- iPad Tips and Tricks
- iPads as AAC
- Apps, Apps, and More Apps!
- iPad Accessories
- iPads in Physical and Occupational Therapy
Source: http://ipads.nsseo.wikispaces.net/iPads+and+the+SETT+Process

Keyboard Connector for the iPad
If you want to use an external, non-blue tooth, USB keyboard with an iPad, consider using a USB Camera Connection Kit. “The USB-to-Dock connector that ships as part of Apple’s iPad Camera Connection Kit doesn’t just work with cameras. Early reports say that it will also let you hook up a USB keyboard.” Source: www.wired.com

Microscope Accessibility
Students with physical or visual disabilities often have great difficulty accessing a standard microscope. One solution is to use a small LCD screen or connect the screen to a larger monitor. This can be done with the Celestron USB Microscope or the PentaViewLCD Digital Microscope. Source: www.celestron.com/browse-shop/microscopes

Pic Collage
Free on iTunes, this app allows you to put together collages. You can import photos, edit with touch gestures, use special effects, add borders, make frames, add backgrounds, etc. There are teacher and parent controls in the app. Source: https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/pic-collage-photo-video-text/id448639966?mt=8

PicMonkey Collage Maker
“PicMonkey is a free photo editor that works in your browser—nothing to download or install.” Templates are used to make cards, collages, etc. Source: www.picmonkey.com/collage

QIAT List Serv Resource Bank
The QIAT List Serv is a very valuable resource to all of us. QIAT also has a website where individuals can upload documents that may be helpful to colleagues in the field of assistive technology. The uploads are
NOT in alphabetical order or by topic, but are listed by posting date—so searching takes time. Some of the items on the resource page include:

- Evaluation of Student for Speech Recognition
- Social Narrative Apps Comparison Chart
- Tally Baseline
- Comprehensive Switch Tally Data
- Object-Photo-Icon Data
- Keyboarding Student Log
- Data Collection Templates
- Speech Recognition as AT for Writing: A Guide for K-12 Education
- Assistive Technology Flow Chart
- Assistive Technology Plan (documents what has been tried and the effectiveness)
- Request for Assistive Technology Assistance
- Assistance Technology Procedures for IEP Teams
- AT Consideration and Process for IEP Teams
- iOS Word Prediction Apps Comparison Chart


**Squatty Potty**

This device is useful for students with issues of constipation, irritable bowel, straining, etc. This tool is a footrest that positions the feet and legs of the person when using the toilet. The idea is to position the body at a precise angle to assist in faster and more complete elimination. $35.00  

**App of the Month**

**Voice Dream Writer by Voice Dream LLC**

$9.99 on iTunes

You may have used Voice Dream Reader, but now there is a new app called Voice Dream Writer. “Text-to-speech proofreading reduces mistakes, phonetic and meaning search help you use the right words, and an active outline helps you organize and improve the structure of your writing.”

“Voice Dream Writer reads your writing using text-to-speech, so you can easily spot awkward sentences, grammatical errors and typos. Also, it can read words and sentences as you type or voice dictate. This way, you can type faster because you no longer have to look up to check the text you just wrote.”