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Assistive Technology

Initial Thoughts

1. What should teachers know about assistive technology and how it is used by students with disabilities?
2. What are the school's responsibilities regarding assistive technology?
3. What can classroom teachers do to help their students fully succeed in their use of assistive technology?

I think teachers should know about the basics of what assistive technology there is available to be used by SWD. I think a lot of teachers may be resistant to it because they know that schools that don’t embrace it and if they cannot use it during testing, that it may not be worth the purchase for the school.

The school’s responsibility should be to the students. They should listen to all of the teachers’ recommendations regarding using their budget towards needs of Students with Disabilities. I do not think that enough principals realize what advantages these tools have to help students.

I think for teachers to succeed in the use of assistive technology that they need to be made aware and trained on the variety of programs available. I hope that as I learn more that is available that I can be another voice to speak to administration and one day the district on the importance of assistive technology. I think when teachers are made aware of what tools that can be made to have their students become more confident in their learning, they will embrace these tools to use.

Reflection:

1. I think that teachers should be more aware of what assistive technologies the schools provide because I had no idea that with so many students with disabilities and struggles with reading that our school does not really have anything in the building to work with. I guess it is an “as needed” accessory since a lot of student with severe disabilities are sent to schools that do have the tools capable of meeting those students’ needs. It is not required at all schools to have.

2. I guess because our students’ disabilities are not severe enough to warrant technology in the school that we should use online technology like I mentioned before with my project. I really don’t know what I would do differently because my school environment currently does not have students where those tools in the classroom are used like the ones I researched for our assignment. To see those fully implemented would require a school visit to another school. I guess I would have questions to teachers in schools where those tools are used and wonder how up to date are those tools and is there funding to make sure yearly in school’s budget that those teachers are provided with those tools or do the teachers have to work on grants for these tools.