## GaDOE and Tools for Life Partnership

In an effort to build capacity and have a sustainable impact on Assistive Technology services for students in Georgia, the Georgia Department of Education Division for Special Education Services and Support has partnered with the Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation and Tools for Life to bring some exciting opportunities and initiatives to our state including:

- **Customized Training Videos**
  - These short (3-7 minute) videos will be posted on the www.gpat.org website.
- **Assistive Technology (AT) Consultation Services**
  - This service will support districts in AT decision making through email or phone conversations.   This is not a direction student service or intervention and is designed to be used when local personnel need additional support.
- **Assistive Technology Webinar Series**
  - This webinar series has already begun and will continue through the remainder of 2020.  For more information refer to the Shared SPED Google Calendar for more information.  The next webinar is scheduled for March 10.
- **AT/UDL Software**
  -  Support tools for reading and writing (Read&Write), STEM tools (Equatio), and a writing achievement tool (WriQ).  See the second page of this newsletter for more information on these tools.
- **Assistive Technology Lending Library**
  - Allows for device trials in the students real-life environment in order to support teachers in making AT decisions. This can also be used short term while other devices are being repaired or replaced.
- **Discovery Surveys - District Assistive Technology and Accessibility**
  - To determine the areas of greatest needs for future AT focus.
- **EdTrade, Georgia Assistive Technology (AT) School Exchange Database**
  - An online forum where GA school districts can post unused or no longer needed assistive technology  items for loan, exchange, or sell to other districts.

Each of these initiatives were set in place to help build capacity for Assistive Technology throughout the state.   All communications for these initiatives will be made through an online portal.  Carol and I will be the portal liaisons for our district and will be your contacts for access to these programs.

# Software Tools

The software tools provided by the state are now ready to be deployed to every 3-12th grade student with an IEP. Below you will find an overview of each of the extensions that are available for our students. More detailed information including product features, video tutorial links, and quick start guides can be found on the Thomas County AT webpage by visiting www.thomas.k12.ga.us > Departments > Exceptional Students > AT Website (listed under "Links" on the right). This page can also be accessed by scanning the QR code at the bottom of this page.

**read&write**

This extension provides a toolbar within the Chrome browser that includes tools to support reading, writing, studying, and research. Features include text reading with various voice choices, read aloud options for text found in photos/charts/diagrams, dictionary (pictures and read aloud definitions), word prediction, highlighting, vocabulary list builder, screen masking, simplification, and so much more!

**ΣquatIO**

This extension provides a toolbar within the Chrome browser that includes tools to support STEM subjects. The tools allow students to create math equations, dictate mathematical expressions and equations, Desmos, graph editor, handwriting recognition , and more.

**WRiQ**
the writing metric

The WriQ score can help you track how well your students are writing and provide a score for comparison. Productivity, accuracy, pace , and vocabulary are all considered in the WriQ score. *This extension will require more extensive training in order to implement.*

**Teachers can get Read&Write and Equatio free of charge in order to become familiar with the products. Visit this website: www.texthelp.com/freeforteachers**

For more information regarding AT please contact Alison Parker (alparker@tcjackets.net) or

visit the Thomas County Assistive Technology webpage by scanning the QR code: