Collaboration
Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) and
Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation (CIDI)

Building Capacity for
Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) and Assistive Technology (AT)

March 2022
Collaborative Vision

CIDI | Tools for Life (TFL) | Braille & E-Text, in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Education, will build capacity and have a sustainable significant impact on Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) delivery and Assistive Technology (AT) software, devices, and services for Birth-12th grade throughout Georgia.
CIDI’s Braille Services & Education Unit

The Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation was created specifically to serve students with disabilities in higher education institutions across the United States. One of the biggest challenges we face was how to provide equal access to information for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. The Braille Services and Education Unit was established, in 2008, to meet this challenge. *This began with providing braille to the students enrolled at one of the University System of Georgia's colleges.* CIDI’s Braille Unit has grown into a robust production unit that includes a 12-person internal team, national network of qualified and dependable contractors, innovative streamlined applications designed to incorporate all aspects of the work and an arsenal of equipment that serves the braille needs of our customers nationally including supporting many K-12 agencies outside of Georgia.
CIDI Organizational Structure
Tools for Life – Georgia’s AT Act Program

• *Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program*, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.
Customers

• Education
  • Colleges: Universities, Community, Technical
  • K-12
    • State (Instructional Materials Centers and Schools for the Blind)
  • County
• Federal government
• Other
  • State government
  • Corporations
Assets/Resources

• **Production Facility**
  Robust facility capable of matching or exceeding the output of some of largest braille productions agencies in the country.

• **Arsenal of production equipment** braille printing, tactile graphics, binding, collating and shipping equipment.

• **Campus Collaborators**
  • GT Copy and Printing
  • GTRI Machine Shop
Assistive Technology

Increase Access & Acquisition to AT by:

• Providing Assistive Technology (AT) Collaboration Services
• Assistive Technology (AT)/Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Software Program
• Assistive Technology Lending Library
• EdTrade, Georgia Assistive Technology (AT) School Reuse Database and asset management system
Assistive Technology Portal Users – Statewide Glance

Secure Gateway for K-12 requests (loans, collaborations, & software)

- 303* users registered
  - 160 local districts
  - 11 Charter Schools
  - 4 State Schools
  - 7 Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS)
  - 182 unique Local Education Agencies (LEA’s) represented

* March 2022, data. Portal registration is secure and local special education directors designate who has access from their district to submit AT requests in the portal.
Software – AT Partnership

TextHelp Software*

• **450,827** licenses provisioned from Texthelp statewide (all three software titles)

• **132** districts statewide (03-03-22)

- [ ] Read & Write (151,030)
- [ ] EquatIO (151,208)
- [ ] WriQ (148,589)

* for students with disabilities / with an IEP; software requested through the AT Portal; district-wide at one time
Statewide AT Partnership Portal and Software Map
Increase Access to AEM

**Transitioning** GaDOE’s Georgia Instructional Materials Center (GIMC) production and acquisition services to CIDI

- Developing sustainable AEM production services
- Conduct needs analysis for AEM services to develop a strategic plan and determine next steps to increase Braille, large print, E text and AEM AT access to students with print related disabilities.
- Working with Georgia Department of Education DSESS Leadership to ensure a smooth transition of AEM production operations, supporting systems and resources with minimal interruption of services.
Accessible Education Materials

- Orders will continue to be processed through Datalnx via the partnership.
  - Books
  - Equipment
  - Supplies
- Annual census will still be collected by GaDOE.
Rational for Partnership Expansion

• Georgia Tech’s CIDI has the capacity to handle our requests.
• They have expertise in the production of accessible materials including Braille.
• The center has transcribers on staff and access to sources across the country.
• Their approach differs with logistics and materials production.
• Have access to cutting edge research and technology to support Georgia students.
Future Growth

- Refreshable Braille
- Captioning
- Expand our Focus
- Digital Text
- Documentation in the IEP
- Leadership
Questions
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