



DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES

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Augmentative Communication and Assistive Technology Team

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As the Assistive Technology Coordinator, I have been investigating the best technology solution for our students with special needs. For many students with disabilities in our district, a major need is software that will give both auditory and visual feedback as well as allowing text manipulation. Another important need is to provide text scanning capability for students who have disparity between cognitive levels and reading levels. Software with these features would give many more students access to the curriculum that they need and understand, but have difficulty reading. It would encourage greater comprehension, independence, and success.

The two current applications that serve this purpose are outdated and under licensed. In order to meet this growing need we would need to purchase an additional 30 licenses

Current Software Solution: SOLO & Kurzweil

Program	Upgrades	Additional Licenses	Students Served
SOLO	\$893	\$4,317	90
Kurzweil	\$4148	\$\$23,920	
	Total \$5041.	Total 28,237.	

A more cost effective alternative has surfaced. A software program called **ReadWrite Gold** from Texthelp has many of the same features of the other 2 programs.

Proposed Software Solution: ReadWrite Gold

Program	Upgrades	School License	
Read/Write Gold	An annual fee of approximately \$750 per building	12,000 (6,000 X 2)	<u>All</u> Middle School Students

Advantages beyond reduced cost include:

- Required training focused on only one software program
- Eliminate the need to manage licenses (install and uninstall)

Implementation Training Plan of Read/Write Gold

- ACAT evaluate the training needs of self-selected Special Education teachers
- ACAT design specific training modules to meet identified needs
- August, 2008 – Train self-selected Special Education teachers
- August, 2008 – Install on classroom student workstations and computer labs
- 2008- 2009 School Year - Monitor classroom use, gather teacher feedback and provide additional training for teachers
- Summer 2009 – revisit implementation plan for further expansion

Thank you for your consideration.

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