Purchasing Appropriate Technologies for Students with Dyslexia

A Methodology for Evaluating Technology When Considering Purchases

As districts begin the task of evaluating technologies to meet the needs of diverse learners, a thoughtful process must be in place to ensure success. **The following rubric provides a guide** for decision-making when considering new technology purchases.

	Limited Score Point 1	Partially Sufficient Score Point 2	Sufficient Score Point 3	Exceeds Expectation Score Point 4
Learning Support / Accessibility	* The technology offers a single purpose to support student learning and would be available to a limited number of students. * The technology is accessible at a centralized location with the assistance of a trained teacher.	* The technology provides more than one support for student learning or one single purpose that would be available to many students. * The technology requires the assistance of a trained teacher within the general classroom.	*The technology offers multiple supports in multiple content areas for student learning or one single purpose that would be available to an unlimited number of students. * The technology is mobile and can be used in multiple settings, but it requires some teacher support.	* The technology provides multiple supports and can be used across content areas by an unlimited number of students. * The technology is mobile, can be used in multiple settings, and requires little or no teacher support.
Hardware / Software	* The technology provides no student practice in an authentic/problem-based environment. * The technology provides no feedback on student performance. *The technology works with only one type of hardware. *The technology cannot be repaired locally and requires a costly service agreement.	*The technology provides limited student practice in an authentic/problem-based environment. *The technology provides limited feedback on student performance, but the feedback is vague and does not assist the student in making adjustments. *The technology works with some hardware but not with others. *The technology can be repaired locally with a required service agreement.	*The technology provides some student practice in an authentic/problem-based environment, but teacher support is often needed. *The technology provides some specific feedback on student performance, allowing the student to make adjustments. *The technology works with most hardware, but installation may be cumbersome for some. *The technology can be repaired locally and provides a free service agreement. Some repairs may cost, if not covered under warranty.	*The technology provides practice in an authentic/problem-based environment with little or no teacher support. *The technology provides consistent, specific feedback on student performance, allowing the student to make adjustments. *The technology is compatible with all types of hardware. *The technology can be repaired locally and provides a free service agreement. All repairs are covered under warranty.

	Limited Score Point 1	Partially Sufficient Score Point 2	Sufficient Score Point 3	Exceeds Expectation Score Point 4
Teacher-Training	*There is limited or no teacher support. *Onsite training for staff is an additional cost.	*Training and support are provided online only for technical advice. *Onsite training for staff is free for a one-time only opportunity.	*Training and support are provided online and/or via a 1-800 line. *Onsite training for staff is free with a follow-up training included, if needed.	*Training and support are provided online, via 1-800 support, and face-to-face. *Onsite training for staff is free and unlimited.
User Friendliness	*Teachers/students require extensive training to navigate technology. *Instructions included with the technology are lengthy and confusing for teachers/students. *The vendor provides no evidence that the technology is motivating to students and does not provide an opportunity to interact with the product.	*Teachers/students require some training to navigate technology. *Instructions included with the technology provide limited support online and/or via a 1-800 line and are at times confusing. *The vendor provides little evidence that the technology is motivating to students but provides an opportunity to interact with the product.	*Teachers/students require minimal training (perhaps only online assistance) to navigate technology independently. *Instructions included with the technology provide support online and/or via a 1-800 line during regular office hours. *The vendor provides some evidence that the technology is motivating to students and provides an opportunity to interact with the product.	*Teachers/students can launch and navigate technology independently with almost no training needed. *Instructions included with the technology are clear and helpful to teachers/students and unlimited support is available online or via 1-800 line. *The vendor provides extensive evidence that the technology is motivating to students and includes an opportunity to interact with the product.

Name of Technology under Consideration: _____

Total Score: _____

Score Interpretation for Technology Rubric

34-44 points: Exceeds Expectation
23-33 points: Sufficient
12-22 points: Partially Sufficient (There may be a better choice.)
Below 12 points: Limited (Decision-making team should consider other possibilities.)