Accessible Solutions for Online Learning: Considerations for Learners who are B/VI Resources

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Understand why accessibility is important for learners who are blind/visually impaired (B/VI) and discover tips for considering a student's accessibility needs when engaged in remote learning activities. Explore laws and guidance related to accessibility and why it matters, identification of student accessibility need, accessibility features of technology tools/platforms/online curriculum, and resources to support identification and assessment of accessibility needs.

Supporting Resources:

OCALI Lending Library:

The OCALI Lending Library is available to any person over the age of 18 residing or working in the state of Ohio. To create a Lending Library account, please submit your information using the registration form. Once your application has been processed and your account has been established, we will notify you via email. For assistance with the OCALI Lending Library, please contact OCALI toll free at 614-410-0321 and ask for the lending library or email lendinglibrary@ocali.org.

Learning Media Assessment: An Introduction Webinar:

This introductory, one-hour webinar is designed to teach the basics of a learning media assessment, why it matters, the process, and resources to support teachers of students with visual impairments (TVIs), families, administrators, related service providers, and general educators.

Federal Quota:

Annually, At the direction of the Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children the AT&AEM Center conducts the Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students in Ohio to identify eligible infants, students, and adults who qualify for free textbooks and other hands-on learning materials. Districts can make materials requests to the AT&AEM Center to access the free materials.

State School Resource Bank

SIFTS:

SIFTS is a web-based tool designed to assist assistive technology (AT) decision-making teams in matching a person's needs with AT features. SIFTS is helpful for children through adults and can be used by parents, students, consumers, and professionals serving people with disabilities. Questions about the person's needs and abilities are presented and the answers provided are then used to generate a list of possible AT feature considerations for the team to discuss.

Assistive Technology and Internet Modules:

ATIM is designed to provide high-quality information and professional development on assistive technology (AT) for educators, professionals, families, persons with disabilities, and others. Each module guides you

through AT users' experiences, instructional videos, pre- and post-assessments, a glossary, and much more. ATIM modules are available at no cost.

Accessibility Fundamentals:

Strategies, standards, resources to make the Web accessible to people with disabilities

Where to go for help:

OCALI:

OCALI informs public policy and develops and deploys practices grounded in linking research to real life. Online, free learning opportunities and resources for educators, community members and families.

Ohio State School for the Blind:

The Ohio State School for the Blind provides educational services to students in grades pre-K-12 and also includes a post-secondary program for students who are blind or visually impaired. OSSB serves students throughout the state of Ohio and provides residential services to those families that are to far for daily transportation.

Education happens both inside and outside the classroom at OSSB. With daily classes, Expanded Core Curriculum, Related Services and Athletics, students have a full day of learning. Residential students continue with activities after school hours through the Resident Life program.

State and Regional AT Lending Libraries:

Lending libraries are helpful for people with disabilities to try out different technology based on their needs before purchasing equipment, such as AT, medical equipment or adaptive toys. Many programs offer lending services for free. In 2018 the OCALI AT&AEM Center funded by a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council conducted a survey of state and regional AT lending libraries. The information about the lending libraries is provided in   multiple downloadable formats as well as an online interactive map.

National AEM Center:

The 2019-2024 National AEM Center provides technical assistance, coaching, and resources to increase the availability and use of accessible educational materials and technologies for learners with disabilities across the lifespan.

AT Ohio:

AT Ohio's mission is to help Ohioans with disabilities learn about or acquire assistive technology. Assistive Technology refers to devices, equipment or services that assist individuals with disabilities to function independently in the areas of work, home or school. We offer several programs and services to achieve that goal. We also keep up with current legislative activity that affects persons with disabilities and educate legislators about the needs and concerns of citizens with disabilities.