

AT Quick Guide

What Makes Kurzweil Effective

What are the benefits to students?

- Students who most benefit from Kurzweil are those who can integrate auditory and visual information, but have poor unaided reading rates or endurance. (Elkind, 1998).
- Kurzweil helps students attend better to their reading, reduce reading distractibility, read with less fatigue, read for longer periods of time, and read faster to complete reading assignments in less time (Hecker, Burns, Elkind, Elkind & Katz, 2002).
- Students with mild to moderate disabilities (N=73) in 6th and 7th grades using Kurzweil text reader and study skills averaged a fluency increase of 16 WPM in a 23 week period, and an average of 13% improvement in comprehension. (Iowa Text Reader Project 2004-2005)
- Students who cannot read fixed hardcopies of text, can use Kurzweil to read academic text independently. Unlike verbatim reading, Kurzweil reinforces print processing.

What do other Maryland school districts report about the use of Kurzweil?

- To ensure success, schools must have a workable plan, and school staff who will take ownership must be identified.
- AYP increases do not arise simply because Kurzweil was put in place, but because staff was invested in new ways of providing access to teaching and learning for ALL students.

What are the steps for the successful implementation of Kurzweil?

	Implementation Steps	Staff responsible
Implementation Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decide on what you want to target and how you will track this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Student benchmarks ▪ Decreasing verbatim adult readers ▪ IEP documentation ▪ Frequency of use data stored in Kurzweil ▪ AYP, MSA/HSA 	
Staff Buy In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Administrative support ○ Identified staff (USS, teachers, paraprofessional, testing coordinator) who will support Kurzweil at the school and who will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategize with staff on best uses of Kurzweil ▪ Plan and organize text to be digitized ▪ Provide ongoing training to staff and students 	
Technical Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Obtain networked versions of Kurzweil and multi-page scanners. ○ Establish a timeline for installing Kurzweil and 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> making sure it is operational. ○ Decide where text files can be stored on school computers. ○ Communicate that Kurzweil technical support is a school priority. 	
Focused Use of Kurzweil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survey what in the curriculum needs to be read independently and can be scanned ahead of time. ○ Focus on one or 2 subjects and one or two teams that will commit to the use of Kurzweil instructionally (Eng./Social Studies). ○ Target students to use Kurzweil at least 3 times per week. ○ Decide on how you will support reading as assigned homework (after school access). 	
Scanning Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify staff who will be in charge of organizing and scanning texts and stay a quarter ahead of schedule. ○ Understand copyright issues. ○ Consider using NHS or service learning credits to help with scanning and editing (coordinated and supervised). 	
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish a training schedule. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At minimum, one to two 3-hour hands-on sessions ▪ SA85 is available as a 1-credit course and entails 5 3-hour sessions that focus on integrating Kurzweil into the curriculum. ○ Schedule open labs operated by school staff trained in the use of Kurzweil. ○ Training accountability: ensuring that staff who are trained, have opportunities to apply what they have learned. 	