

Wisconsin Assistive Technology Regional Network (WATRN)



Winter 2019 Meeting

In partnership with the Wisconsin AAC Network

Welcome!

"For most of us, technology makes things easier. For a person with a disability it makes things possible."

~ Heumann

Today's Objectives...

- ❖ **Review** mission and vision of the WATRN
- ❖ **Differentiate** instructional technology (UDL) vs. Assistive Technology
- ❖ **Gain clarity** on how to document AT in the IEP
- ❖ **Explore** resources through PRC
- ❖ **Reflect** on new learning, network, and identify next steps

Winter Regional Network Meetings – Agenda

1. Introductions (10 min)
 - a. Name, District/Employer, Position
 - b. One thing you would like to learn more about today.
2. Assistive Technology Overview and Discussions (1 hour)
 - a. Differentiate Instructional Technology versus Assistive Technology
 - b. Documentation of AT in the IEP
3. Prentke Romich Company (PRC) - Alex Frank (1 hour)
 - a. Devices
 - b. Trials
 - c. Funding process
 - d. Resources
4. Roundtable discussion/Network Opportunities/Case Studies (1 hour)

Mission

To provide a platform where AT/AAC specialist around the state of Wisconsin are able to meet in regional groups to provide each other support, share knowledge and raise awareness around current issues facing school based AT/AAC professionals.

Vision

Foster a grassroots effort to fill a gap left behind by the defunding of WATI. Bring Wisconsin back to a place where AT/AAC professionals are created, developed and supported in order to provide a high quality of AT/AAC services to all students with disabilities.

Who are we?

Wisconsin AAC Network - Schools committee

The mission of the Wisconsin AAC Network's school committee is to support school districts, outside agencies, DPI, and families to work together on AAC topics. We hold monthly virtual meetings. The school committee gives a report to the AAC Network's leadership team at their quarterly conference call. The network's mission is to bring Wisconsin AAC stakeholders together to have one voice on state AAC issues, we work on raising AAC awareness in the state and helping families on their AAC journey.

WATR N Members

WATR N Leadership Team Bios

New WATR N Leaders

Cassie Frost, M.Ed



Cassie is the Assistive Technology Specialist for the Stevens Point Area School District. Previous to working in this roll, she was an Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities Specialist for over 12 year.

Cassie works with students from Pre-K to graduation in the school setting as well as consults with adults, families, and other professionals through her private practice.

Cassie's passion is uncovering the root of behaviors so appropriate tools can be identified that will provide access for each student. She enjoys creating unique AT solutions that meet each student's specific needs.

Cassie is excited to be joining WATR N to host a Regional Meeting in Stevens Point, WI.

New WATRN Leaders

Sarah Winn, OTR



Sarah is an Occupational Therapist who works for the School District of Holmen as the Assistive Technology Coordinator. She is also the chair of the district-wide Assistive Technology committee and a member of the Instructional Technology committee. She graduated with a BS degree in Occupational Therapy from UW-Madison in 1982, a Masters degree in special education with an emphasis on Assistive Technology from the University of Louisville in 2009, and has a DPI license in Assistive Technology. She is passionate about the field of assistive technology and has worked in the public school setting for 33 years sharing this passion with fellow teachers, parents, and students.

Sarah is excited to be joining WATRN to host a Regional Meeting in LaCrosse, WI.

So, what is the difference?

Instructional Technology

Technology used to support curriculum, instruction and assessment. Providing current technology tools, such as Chromebooks, help teachers to engage students, differentiate learning and maximize student learning.

Assistive Technology

Federal Definition: “Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a child with a disability.”

What are examples of assistive technology?



What does the law say about Assistive Technology?

As part of the IEP process, IDEA mandates that the Assistive Technology (AT) needs of students be considered.

(<http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/,root,regs,300,D,300%252E324>)

What does it mean to consider AT in the IEP process?

Consideration of AT is a brief process conducted within the IEP team meeting. The IEP team needs to ask, "Does the student need AT to meaningfully participate and progress in the general curriculum?" (OCALI, 2017)

AT Questions to be answered may include:

What is the student expected to do that he/she is unable to do because of his/her disability related need?

Would AT be able to help with that?

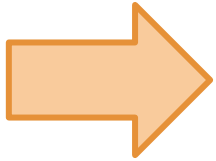
How do I document in the IEP?



Examples of How to Document AT in the IEP

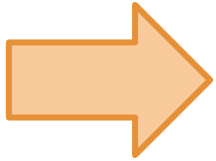
Additional Support for IEP Documentation

Still need help? It's FREE!



AT Internet Modules - FREE!

<https://atinternetmodules.org/>



**WATI (Wisconsin Assistive
Technology Initiative) - FREE!**

<http://www.wati.org/>

ATIA in Review

Assistive Technology Industry Association

App Smack Down



<https://bit.ly/appsmack19>

App Smack Down



<https://bit.ly/pdsmackdown19responses>

Social Media: #WATRN

- If you're on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and see any great resources to share, please use **#WATRN** so that we can begin using this as a new way to stay current with our AT skills! It's an easy way to search for resources from each other on social media. Give it a try on Twitter and you'll see a great post from Cassie Frost on Google Keep!
- Another great Twitter resource is the #ATChat on Wednesday nights. There is a facilitator that leads a group discussion by using the #ATChat hashtag.

Let's explore PRC with Alex Frank...



EMPOWERING TODAY, INSPIRING TOMORROW



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Case Studies/Networking/
Roundtable Discussion

Survey time!

Please share your feedback.



If you have any questions and/or need support you are welcome to contact any of the WI AAC Network's school committee members. If you would like to host a meeting in your area, please contact Mike Hipple.

Mike Hipple: mikehipple4@gmail.com

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Sarah Winn: winsar@holmen.k12.wi.us

Cassie Frost: cfrost@disruptive-teaching.com

Carly Sandgren: carlysandgren@gmail.com

Thank you for attending the WATRN meeting!

References

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Bugaj, C. R., & Norton-Darr, S. (2010). *Practical (and Fun) Guide to Assistive Technology in Public Schools: Building or Improving Your District's AT Team*. International Society for Technology in Education.

Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). (2017). Autism Technology Internet Modules. Retrieved from <http://www.atinternetmodules.org/>

Zabala, J., Blunt, M., Carl, D., Davis, S., Deterding, C., Foss, T., ... & Marfilius, S. (2000). Quality indicators for assistive technology services in school settings. *Journal of Special Education Technology*, 15(4), 25-36.

Other links:

United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication: <https://ussaac.org/>

Please join the - Wisconsin AAC Facebook Network Page