

Accessible Learning for all Students: Incorporating Assistive Technology into Mainstream Programs

Session Summary

Students with disabilities have been removed from the mainstream in order to utilize adaptive and assistive equipment and/or devices. In many school systems, only the most severely handicapped students have had access to any adaptive or ergonomic equipment. An alternative model is the development of “Mobile Learning Stations” which can be used flexibly in classrooms, learning centers, libraries, computer labs and resource rooms by all students. Employing mobile, ergonomic and adaptive/assistive technology, learning stations which are compatible with, and similar to conventional, pre-existing computer configurations, all students can have access to assistive hardware and software within the mainstream. These learning stations incorporate assistive technology such as alternative input devices (keyboards, mice), large screen and large print options, text and web reader software and voice recognition software. This presentation will focus on how to design and create these learning stations, how these mobile units are integrated into mainstream programs, and how the technology is utilized to support curriculum units.

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