Questions Educators Frequently Asked

What is the text-to-project project?
Our project, Steppingstones: Phase 2 Text-to-Speech Study, is funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Steppingstones to Technology from Oct. 1, 2010 to Sep. 30, 2013. Our project goal is to measure the effectiveness of text-to-speech software as a reading intervention for improving overall reading skills (rate, vocabulary and comprehension), academic performance, and aspirations of high school students with reading difficulties.

How will this project benefit my students?
Our previous research findings suggest continuous use of the text-to-speech software (i.e., Kurzweil 3000™) will benefit the students by improving their reading rate, vocabulary and comprehension. Students who are struggling readers will also benefit from being able to access grade level class materials through the use of the software.

What is my time commitment as a teacher?
There are a few different things you will be asked to do as a participating teacher. There is a 40-minute training on the use of the software and a short survey on the training. Once the training is complete, you will be asked to have your students use the software to read class materials for a minimum of 40 minutes a week for one semester. To measure the effectiveness of the students’ use of software, you will be asked to administer pre/post reading tests at the beginning and at the end of the semester. In addition, we will observe your class three times during the semester for the use of TTS. Finally, you will be asked to complete a pre-survey and a post-survey about the use of the software for teaching reading.

Can all my students use the text-to-speech software?
All students in your class can use the text-to-speech software. However, data will be monitored and collected only from participating students with disabilities or at risk of receiving services due to reading difficulties.

Will technical support be provided?
Yes, a graduate assistant from the university will be assigned to each school to resolve technical issues and assist in scanning reading materials you want to use in advance. In addition, a user-friendly instructional manual, with step-by-step instructions, will be provided.

DISCLAIMER:
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