



Empowering an Inclusive Classroom

Educator Resource Package



Inclusive Education in Canada

Equal education opportunities for all students.

Educators today are faced with the challenge of integrating technology into the classroom and teaching students of all learning styles and abilities, including students with accessibility needs. The World Health Organization's World Report on Disability estimates the number of children under 14 living with disabilities ranges between 93 and 150 million¹.

In Canada, 3.2% of children aged 5 to 14 are affected by a limitation related to learning².

Whether the limitation stems from mental disability, developmental delays or physical impairments, children need access to assistive technology during their learning years. And as overall student usage of computers continues to rise, there is greater demand to provide these assistive technology solutions to ensure that all students have equal access to the educational opportunities they provide.

Role of technology in empowering an inclusive classroom.

A recent study commissioned by Microsoft Canada, Parents and Teachers on Education³, indicated 89% of teachers agree that technology has the potential to cater to students special educational needs. However, only 65% of teachers agree that it is currently being used effectively. This suggests a need for specialized training and awareness of available technology solutions, to help close the gap. In fact, teachers indicated that providing more training for students with learning impairments or disabilities was among the top priorities school boards could undertake to improve the quality of student education.

8 in 10 teachers agree technology enables students with learning impairments or disabilities to succeed in school.

While the study also highlighted that 8 in 10 teachers agree technology enables students with learning impairments or disabilities to succeed in school, it can also present challenges for educators. According to the Primary Sources study⁴, up to 50% of instructional time is lost to deploying and maintaining assistive technology for students with disabilities. More than 7 in 10 teachers also indicated their classroom populations include special education students and those with reading levels that span four or more grade levels.

Case in Point: Meeting the Accessibility Needs of Diverse Learners

Technology has revolutionized how today's students are learning.

With the digital world at their fingertips, it's easier for teachers to provide accessible and specialized learning to empower students with special needs to realize their full potential. At schools across Canada, educators have recognized how technology can create an accessible and inclusive learning environment that reflects the way students use technology.

1 World Health Organization, World Report on Disability, 2011

2 Statistics Canada, Participation and Activity Limitation Survey, 2006

3 Parents and Teachers on Education, 2015

4 Primary Sources Third Edition, National Data, 2013

Case Study:

St. Mark's
Community School,
Saskatoon



"It's been amazing to see how it's changed their learning and engagement level," says Davis.

EdTech pilot sparks Education paradigm shift.

Connie Davis, Teacher Librarian and Educational Technology (ET) Catalyst at St. Mark's Community School in Saskatoon, has led the charge at her school with the launch of a pilot program that is now driving a full paradigm shift. Beginning in grade two, the students in the pilot received lessons adjusted to focus on 21st-century learning techniques, such as digital literacy and collaboration. Now in grade five, Davis has watched these students transform with increased confidence and a desire to learn. "It's been amazing to see how it's changed their learning and engagement level," says Davis. "These students are frequently using technology to learn something new through personalized learning."

The school has also recently adopted Surface Pro 2 devices in grade eight classrooms, allowing students with learning disabilities to engage, integrate and learn 21st-century skills using apps like Book Creator to tell stories and Windows Live Movie Maker to create Stop Animation movies. With a high immigrant population, students have benefited from having access to devices with built-in apps, like Bing Translator, allowing those who speak minimal English to do grade-level work and actively participate in class projects.

Case Study:

Niagara Catholic
District School
Board



“Accessibility functions (EASE of Access) on Windows are tools that can help students of all learning styles and needs,” says Napoli.

Preparing students for standardized testing using assistive technology.

Frank Napoli, a Special Needs Facilitator and AT Support with the Niagara Catholic District School Board, has seen the impact that accessible and inclusive technology can make for students in helping them to prepare. Napoli runs training workshops for students and teachers on the accessibility features that are built into Windows devices and Microsoft Office. These tools not only help students study and accomplish more effectively, but have also shown improvement in their grades from using accessibility features. “Accessibility functions (EASE of Access) on Windows are tools that can help students of all learning styles and needs,” says Napoli. “A lot of people don’t realize the features that are available on Windows, which is why my training includes the whole classroom – teachers included. It’s great to see how students’ react when they see how you can split a screen or read into a text format with speech recognition. Including the

auditory feedback called speak from Microsoft Word allows students to listen to their work and make their own corrections. This text to speech feature allows students to have confidence to complete the task at hand. The On Screen keyboard on Windows device is not only a keyboard but has a built in predictor.”

Napoli travels to schools to show classes his tips to make the most out of Microsoft’s accessibility software, championing the free tools built native to Microsoft software and OS. No apps required!

Case Study:

Toronto District
School Board



We decided to use Windows tablets to help students with learning disabilities and those on the autism spectrum to increase their organization and independence skills.

Empowering inclusive learning with OneNote and Surface.

Angie Scarano-Iuorio, Toronto District School Board's Assistive Technology Central Coordinator, understands the potential technology has to enable learning. With a mandate to ensure students with special needs are able to work to their full potential, Scarano-Iuorio used the Ontario Ministry of Education's Special Equipment Amount (SEA) to access specialized equipment from vocal devices to Windows tablets and apps to support learning and success at school. "We recognize that each individual has different ways of learning," says Scarano-Iuorio. "We decided to use Windows tablets to help students with learning disabilities and those on the autism spectrum to increase their organization and independence skills."

The team is now two years into utilizing Microsoft OneNote on Windows devices to help students with learning disabilities prepare for their transition into high school. In personalizing how each unique learning need can be met with the free software, students have shown success in their ability to de-stress, reduce anxiety and focus on learning.



Free Tools to Create an Inclusive Classroom

Microsoft is dedicated to building accessibility into our products and to providing accessibility resources for educators, fostering learning for all.

Windows PCs and tablets support students with different needs, including those with temporary and permanent learning and literacy, vision, hearing, speech, and mobility impairments. These devices empower students to focus, see and consume content, interact with the computer, and write or create content in alternative ways. More and more devices today are touch-enabled, lightweight, and mobile, improving the user experience for all.

Here are 5 free ways you can empower inclusive learning

1	2	3	4	5
<p>Download the Windows 10 Accessibility Guide to learn about out-of-the-box accessibility features native to Windows 10</p>	<p>Download the Learning Tools for OneNote add-in to help students of all learning abilities improve their reading and writing skills.</p>	<p>Enroll in the self-paced online course Accessibility tools: Meeting the needs of diverse learners on the Microsoft Educator Network</p>	<p>Book a Private Accessibility Training Session hosted by a Microsoft Teacher Ambassador at your school</p>	<p>Attend an Accessibility Workshop in your area</p>
<p>Download Accessibility Guide</p>	<p>Download OneNote Learning Tools</p>	<p>Get Trained</p>	<p>Book a Session</p>	<p>Find a Workshop</p>

Empower inclusive education.

Speech Recognition.

Controls the computer by voice for navigation and dictation.

Narrator.

Reads text on the screen and describes screen activity.

Multiple Inputs.

Audio, touch, keyboard, pen and USB-enabled assistive technology products.

Cameras.

Built-in front and rear cameras to capture photos and video recordings.

USB Port.

Enables assistive technology products, such as braille keyboards.

One Click.

Quick launch to OneNote for the Learning Tools toolbar.



Windows built-in accessibility features provide a personalized learning experience, right out of the box. No apps required.

30% off Surface 3 Bundles for Education.

Surface 3 tablet, pen and keyboard starting at \$586

Offer expires June 30, 2016.



10% off Surface Pro Bundles for Education



Find a reseller at microsoft.ca/SurfaceforEducation





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