Assessing Students' Needs for Assistive Technology (2009)

WATI Student Information Guide **SECTION 6** Reading

1. The Student Demonstrates the Following Literacy Skills.

(Check all that apply. Add comments to clarify)

- □ Engages in joint attention with adult caregiver to activities (e.g. songs, stories, games and/or toys)
- □ Shows an interest in books and stories with adult
- □ Shows and interest in looking at books independently
- □ Associates pictures with spoken words when being read to
- □ Realizes text conveys meaning when being read to
- **□** Recognizes connection between spoken words and specific text when being read to
- □ Pretend writes and "reads" what he or she has written, even if scribbles
- Recognizes and reads environmental print
- □ When asked to spell a word, gets first consonant correct, but not the rest of the word
- Demonstrates sound manipulation skills including:
 - □ Initial and final sounds in words
- □ Initial letter names/sounds
- C Recognizes, names and prints the alphabet (if motor skills are limited, may use alternative means rather than printing to demonstrate knowledge of the alphabet)
- □ When asked to spell a word, gets first and last sounds correct
- □ Applies phonics rules when attempting to decode printed words
- □ Sound blends words
- **□** Reads and understands words in context
- **Uses inventive spelling most of the time**
- □ Uses conventional spelling most of the time
- □ Reads and understands sentences
- Composes sentences using nouns and verbs
- **□** Reads fluently with expression
- **□** Reads and understands paragraphs
- Composes meaningful paragraphs using correct syntax and punctuation

2. Student's Performance Is Improved by (Check all that apply.)

□ Smaller amount of text on page **D** Enlarged print □ Word wall to refer to □ Pre-teaching concepts Graphics to communicate ideas **T**ext rewritten at lower reading level □ Bold type for main ideas **□** Reduced length of assignment □ Additional time □ Color overlay or colored text/background □ Spoken text to accompany print □ Increased spacing between words/lines (List color_____) Symbol or Rebus supports to text □ Other



- **D** Being placed where there are few distractions



3. Reading Assistance Used

Please describe the non-technology based strategies and accommodations that have been used with this student

4. Assistive Technology Used

The following have been tried. (Check all that apply. Add comments for clarification)

□ Highlighter, marker, template, or other self-help aid in visual tracking

- □ Colored overlay to change contrast between text and background
- □ Tape recorder, taped text, or talking books to "read along" with text
- Digital Audio files (Mp3, iPod, etc.)
- **T**alking dictionary or talking spell checker to pronounce single words
- □ Hand held pen scanner to read difficult words or phrases
- Electronic text from

□ internet □ publisher □ scanned text □ other _____

□ Computer with text to speech software to

 \Box Speak single words \Box Speak sentences \Box Speak paragraphs \Box Read entire document

□ Handheld device to read electronic books

□ Electronic books from Bookshare or other digital source

Explain what seemed to work or not work with any of the above assistive technology that has been tried.

5. Approximate Age or Grade Level of Reading Skills_____

6. Cognitive Ability in General

□ Significantly below average
□ Average
□ Above average

7. Difficulty (Check all that apply. Add comments for clarification.)

Student has difficulty physically accessing the following.

□Single sheets of paper □ Books

Student has difficulty understanding written language based on

English Language Learner
Limited background experiences

Student has sensory difficulties with

□ Visual clutter □ Fluorescent lighting □Background noise

□ Personal Space □ Other

Student has difficulty decoding the following.

- □ Worksheets □Content Textbooks □ Trade Books □ Tests
- □ Websites or other digital text



- Modified Curriculum
- □ Recreational text

Student has difficulty comprehending the following.

- □ Worksheets □ Content Textbooks □ Trade Books □ Tests
- □ Websites or other digital text
- Modified Curriculum
- □ Recreational text

8. Computer Availability and Use

The student has access to the following computer(s):

□ PC □ Macintosh

9. The Student Uses a Computer:

□ Rarely □ Frequently □ Daily for one or more subjects or periods □ Every day, most of the day For the following purposes_____

Summary of Student's Abilities and Concerns Related to Reading