



National Center for Technology Innovation
Advancing Technology Innovations for All Students

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**Assistive and Learning Software and Products for
Students with Special Needs
Now Searchable on First of Its Kind, Newly Launched Web Site**

Washington, DC— The TechMatrix, (www.TechMatrix.org), a user-friendly, searchable database was released by the National Center for Technology Innovation (NCTI) to help educators and families identify and compare assistive and learning software and products for students with special needs. The updated 2008 TechMatrix empowers education consumers to make well-informed decisions by searching more than 190 products and related research focused on improving the lives of students with special needs.

Funded by the NEC Foundation of America and the U.S. Department of Education, the expanded TechMatrix gives users the opportunity to customize an individual search of products and to generate a detailed report within seconds, for four pressing academic focus areas: reading, mathematics, writing, and assistive technologies. In addition, users can conduct searches by subject area, learning support, technology feature, and/or product name. The dynamic database also allows consumers to compare features and functionalities of current software and tools.

The easily accessible tool provides background information on listed products, such as a brief description, cost range, a product Web site, populations served, operating technology platform, and a detailed list of product features. Further, the easy-to-navigate Web site gathers and provides hyperlinks to the current body of research on assistive and learning technology in instruction.

“We are so pleased to release the much anticipated 2008 TechMatrix. This tool fills a current void in the assistive and learning community by offering consumers a roadmap to effectively assess and differentiate the available product lines in a time-efficient manner,” commented Tracy Gray, Director of the National Center for Technology Innovation at the American Institutes for Research.



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It is important to note that the TechMatrix does not endorse featured products, but rather provides unbiased, credible reviews that consumers can use to make well-informed software and product decisions. The *Consumer Guide*, a user-friendly resource available on the Web site, is designed for school decision makers and education technology vendors to bridge communication and ensure that the right questions in the identification and selection process are asked.

“Having the key information required in the decision-making process available in one comprehensive location is a great service to the special education community,” commented David Dikter, Executive Director for the Assistive Technology Industry Association and Advisory Board member to the National Center for Technology Innovation. The TechMatrix will be showcased later this week at the Assistive Technology Industry Association Annual conference, which brings together more than 2400 stakeholders to discuss effective means to enhance the lives of students with special needs.

The TechMatrix is updated on an ongoing basis and can be accessed free of charge at www.TechMatrix.org.

About the National Center for Technology Innovation

The National Center for Technology Innovation (NCTI) (www.NationalTechCenter.org), established in 2001, advances learning opportunities for *all* students, with a special focus on individuals with disabilities, by fostering technology innovations. Funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) at the U.S. Department of Education, NCTI offers technical guidance to facilitate the growth and sustainability of assistive and learning tools. NCTI broadens and enriches the field by providing high-quality resources and developing meaningful partnerships with innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, and practitioners. The National Center for Technology Innovation is housed at the American Institutes for Research in Washington, DC.
