This learning guide is designed for use by Professional Learning Communities, learning coaches and teacher leaders or as a self-paced study to enhance and support teacher practice in learning more about how learning technologies can support student success.

Learning Technologies:
Information for Teachers

This guide is intended to facilitate conversation after viewing the video, ***Word prediction in the classroom***.

General synopsis

Students and educators demonstrate how word prediction can help students with the physical act of writing and help reduce spelling, grammar, and handwriting errors.

Key understandings

- Word prediction can help a student during word processing by "predicting" a word the student starts to type and providing spoken feedback.

- Word prediction does not correct grammar, sort out punctuation, or provide content. It supports the user in determining and choosing the intended word, often with built-in dictionary and/or homophone support.

- Word prediction can allow students to develop their written expression skills by freeing up cognitive energy previously devoted to spelling or fine motor efforts and reduce frustration with the writing task.

- Making word prediction available to all students removes the stigma for individual students who might otherwise deny themselves the support they need.

- When all students are encouraged to explore available learning technologies, individual students who may not be identified with a specific learning need may discover that the technology provides them with useful support.

- To maximize student success, word prediction must be combined and aligned with effective writing instruction.

Questions for discussion

- What are some of the barriers that students might face when asked to demonstrate understanding or share ideas using paper and pencil only?

- Word prediction can make it possible for students to practice writing by focusing on the development of ideas and the structure of sentences and paragraphs rather than on the mechanics of writing. How could this benefit students in their writing development?

- Do you have students who may benefit from the use of word prediction? In what ways do you believe they would benefit?

- Current research tells us that there is a close relationship between students' level of engagement and their learning. What evidence of that did you see in the video clip?
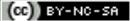
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For more information

- *Making a Difference: Meeting diverse learning needs with differentiated instruction*
  Chapter 6
  http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/resources/cross/making-a-difference.aspx

- Lee, Dr. Christopher
  A Chance to Read – Access Granted (video)
  http://www.readingrockets.org/shows/launching/chance

- Rose, David H., & Meyer, Anne
  ASCD
  Teaching Every Student in the Digital Age: Universal Design for Learning (2002)
  http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/ideas/tes

- Wahl, Lisa, & Duffield, Julie
  WestEd
  Using Flexible Technology to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners
  http://www.wested.org/online_pubs/kn-05-01.pdf