Welcome to the 2022-23 School Year! We hope you enjoyed a wonderful summer break and we are excited to welcome you into the third year of the [Wisconsin Assistive Technology (AT) Forward Project](#). Through information and learning opportunities, the AT Forward Project continues to move Wisconsin forward in the area of Assistive Technology!

Encourage Others to Join AT Forward?
The Assistive Technology (AT) Forward Project works with educators, practitioners, caregivers, and families to increase student autonomy in utilizing Assistive Technology tools to support access, engagement, and progress in learning. AT Forward project provides a variety of resources including a Community of Practice (CoP). Members who attend AT Forward CoP meetings, learn from experts in the field of AT.   CoP meetings are held monthly after school from 4-5PM. The meetings are all recorded and placed on the [AT Forward YouTube Video Playlist](#) for future reference. Encourage others to [join the Assistive Technology Forward CoP](#) and send them this information to join. Participants can also engage in [micro-credential learning opportunities](#) (see below for more information), as well as receive monthly email updates with AT information and resources. From AT beginner to expert, the AT Forward CoP welcomes all knowledge level backgrounds!

New Information Update Bulletin 22.02 Assistive Technology

One of the purposes of assistive technology in the classroom is to ensure students with disabilities have timely access to age or grade level curricula. Bulletin 22.02 provides technical assistance on state and federal requirements related to identifying and addressing the need for assistive technology as part of a special education evaluation and Individualized Education Program (IEP) development. The bulletin addresses frequently asked questions related to assessing, determining, and providing assistive technology to students with IEPs. [Link to Bulletin 22.02: Assistive Technology](#). Additional guidance bulletins on the Wisconsin DPI [Information Update Bulletin Index webpage](#).

Assistive Technology Forward 2022-2023 CoP Meeting Calendar Updated
The [2022-2023 AT Forward CoP Meeting Calendar](#). This document will be updated as new CoP Meetings are finalized for this school year.   In addition, we developed a 2020-2022 Video Resource Guide that categorizes various assistive technology recorded topics from past CoP meetings (e.g. AAC , Accessing Grade Level Curriculum, Accessible Educational Materials, Accessibility 101, Behavior is Communication, Using Data to Document AT in the IEP, Supporting Students with Medical Complexity, and many more topics). View the [2020-2022 AT Forward Video Guide](#) for more topics and videos. Both

of these updated resources along with additional information on micro-credentials, a link to past AT Forward email updates, and a link to our Wisconsin Assistive Technology Lending Center Map can be found on the DPI [Assistive Technology Forward website](#).

A Preview of Upcoming CoP Sessions:
- Literacy for Students with Significant Disabilities by Kelly Fonner
- Funding for AAC Devices from Waisman Center Staff at UW Madison
- Assistive Technology All Day Long- A Deep Look at How One High School Uses AT for Students with ID - School District of Janesville
- Assistive Technology for Administrators by Dr. Penny Reed

*Registration information for these sessions will be coming soon!

[Micro-Credentials](#): The Assistive Technology (AT) Forward is excited to provide free supported micro-credentials and macro-credentials for assistive technology learning opportunities. Micro-credentialing is an opportunity for educators to learn on their own time, pace, and place. Learning is structured in an online platform and is supported with email and video conference communication to enable clarity and success. As participants complete their micro-credentials, they receive feedback to assist in clarifying their goals and earn a digital badge. Digital badges can be added to your email signature to show others your commitment to assistive technology. Districts across the state are using the Micro-Credential process to assist staff in completing their professional practice goals and or other professional developmental advancement. For the 2022-23 school year, we are excited to announce new learning opportunities around Accessible Educational Materials (AEM), Early Childhood, and AT for Administrators .

From our Partners Around the State:
The AT Forward Project is not alone in its quest to assist educators and families across the state, we have many partners including ECHO AAC and WISTECH.

[ECHO AAC](#) is designed to connect individuals who use AAC, families, speech-language pathologists, teachers, occupational therapists, social workers, and other team members to support knowledge sharing in the area of augmentative communication. The ECHO model is designed to recognize the expertise in every member of the ECHO team to maximize outcomes for individuals who use AAC. To join ECHO AAC, please send an email with your name and interest to:
echoaac@waisman.wisc.edu.

ECHO Webinar Sessions:
- [October 12, 2022 3:30pm-5:30pm: AAC Funding](#)
- [November 09, 2022 3:30pm-5:30pm: An Augmented Communicator's Experience](#)
- [December 14, 2022 3:30pm-5:30pm: Culturally Responsive Practice in AAC](#)

WisTech, Wisconsin's Assistive Technology Act Program, is another partner with many free resources such as short term device demonstrations and loans, training, and technical assistance. There are free virtual trainings available and the next WisTech AT training will be about Accessible Event Planning on September 27, 2022. All of the WisTech trainings are archived and available on the WisTech AT Council You Tube Channel. Learn more on the AT Trainings website.

Looking for AT Supports in your area?
Check out the Wisconsin Assistive Technology Resource Map.

Together we can all move AT Forward!

If you have any questions or comments about the AT Forward Project, please contact Kathy White at kathy.white@cesa2.org or Stacy Duffy at stacy.duffy@cesa2.org.