

# Supporting Reading Through Assistive Technology

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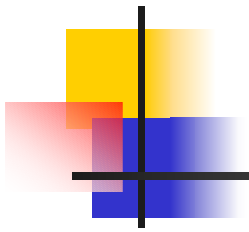
## MICCA 2003

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Baltimore County Public Schools



**\$250,000**



# Focus

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- Secondary Students in 56 schools
  - 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> grades
- Successful reading experiences





# Collaborators

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- Towson University
- Division of Curriculum Instruction
- Office of Instructional Technology
- Department of Technology
- Department of Professional Development

# Goal

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**By September 30, 2003 *secondary* level students identified with learning disabilities will demonstrate an improvement in reading scores through the use of Assistive Technology, an increase over current IEP performance as documented by individual and group assessment results.**





# Objectives

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- 1) By May 31, 2003 target staff, consisting of teams of general and special educators and administrators serving students with reading disabilities, will receive professional development focusing on increasing their knowledge, skill, and comfort level regarding the use of Assistive Technology by 80% as measured by a pre/post survey.
- 2) There will be a 10% improvement in reading vocabulary and reading comprehension for the middle/high sampling of students with reading difficulties as reported through the Nelson-Denny Reading Test pre/post test results.

# Key Personnel:

- Observation
- Mentor
- Coach





# New Staff

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- .6 position
- Scan technician



# What you see is what you get!

## Low Tech Kit

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- Highlighter tape
- Highlighter sheet
- Reading guide
- Hefty tabs
- Erasable highlighter
- Post-it notes Key
- Page up copy holder
- Reading Pen
- magnifier



# What you see is what you get!

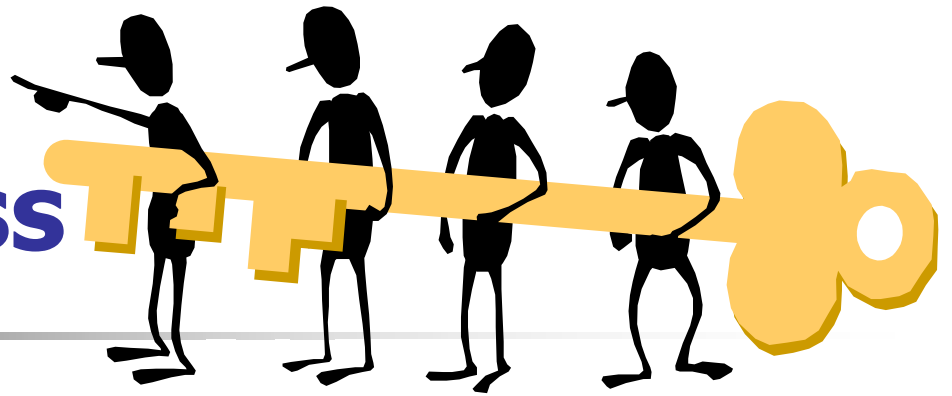
## High Tech

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- Kurzweil 3000
  - 1 Scan/Read
  - 4 Read only

- Hardware
  - Scanner
  - Printer
  - Headphones
  - Speakers

# Training the key to success



- **June, 2003 Intro.**

- **Key Personnel**
- **Secondary English Department**
- **Grant Participants**

- **August, 2003-Brain Based**

- **Kurzweil Training**

- **Small group sessions Fall 2003**
- **Advanced training Winter 2003**



# Support, Support....Success

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- Focus Group Meeting
  - Small group
  - Success stories
  - Challenges
  - Strategies towards change
- Intranet Forum
- Assistive Technology Website



# In-house support

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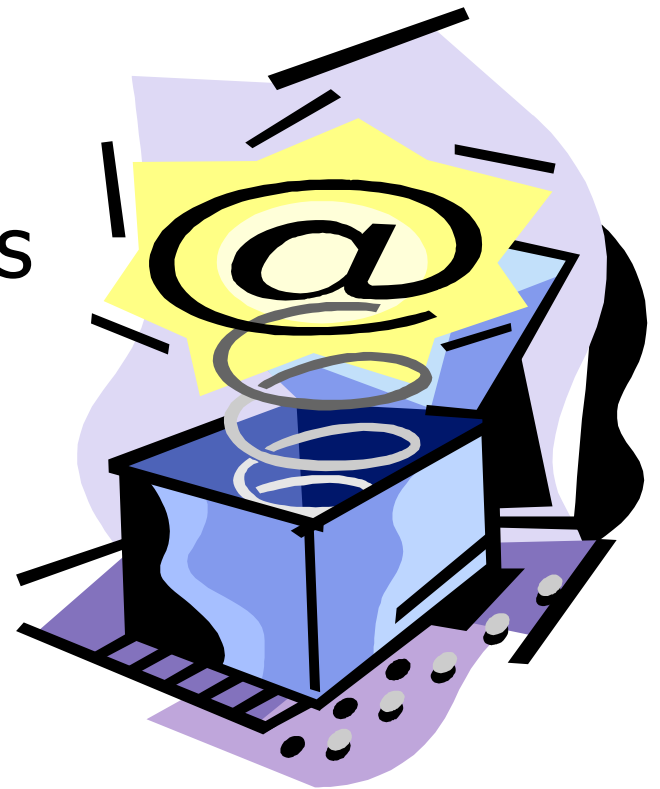
- School based support
  - Grant review
  - Use of low-tech strategies
  - Use of high-tech strategies
    - Kurzweil Review
    - Scanning made simple
  - Documentation
  - Student training



# Spring toward successful reading

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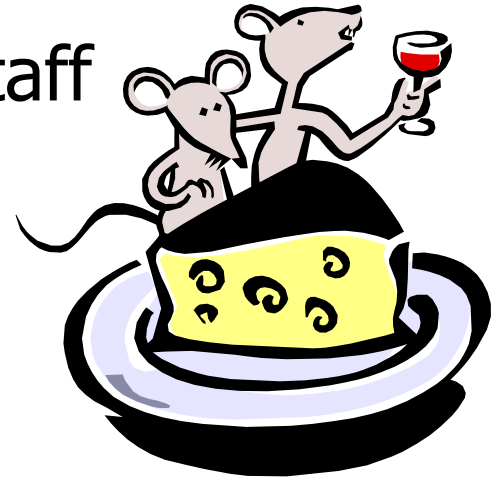
- Scanning our way to success
  - CD's format
  - Intranet database
- Focus group meetings



# My cheese has moved!

Summer 2003

- Training of 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade staff
  - Overview of Assistive Technology
  - How to with:
    - Low-tech accommodations
    - High-tech accommodations
- Staff selected from current grant participants to assist in the training
  - Sharing successes and challenges
  - Serve as a support for the 2003-04 school year



# Questions & Comments

