



COMMONWEALTH *of* VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P. O. BOX 2120
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23216-2120

May 15, 2008

To Local Education Agencies:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) includes additional funding to local school divisions under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This funding may be used to obtain state-of-the-art assistive technology devices to assist students with disabilities. In the effort to support Virginia's local school divisions in meeting the assistive technology needs of students with disabilities, the Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) Division of Special Education and Students Service is pleased to announce an event that will be of interest to your school system. On Monday, July 20 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center from 9:00 to 4:00 p.m., VDOE will sponsor a one-day exhibition of assistive technology entitled ***"Got AT? A Showcase of Possibilities for Unlocking Student Achievement."*** An invitation to this event will be extended to all of Virginia's 132 school divisions. Directors of Special Education and local Assistive Technology Teams are encouraged to attend along with any other persons that are responsible for providing assistive technology to students.

You are invited to participate in this one day event to assist you in developing a plan on how assistive technology can be used to adapt curriculum materials across the content areas for students with disabilities. Highlighted at this event will be 100 invited AT vendors from across the country, AT ideas and solutions from the Training and Technical Assistance Centers (T/TAC) and a Keynote by William Reeder, Fairfax County Public Schools entitled "Solutions and tips for developing a plan to incorporate the use of assistive technology for your school division". Each participant will receive a copy of the newly published Assistive Technology Considerations Document upon registration and TTAC staff will be available throughout the day to answer questions about any forms contained on this CD. The concession area at the Convention Center will be open from 11:00 to 1:00 for purchase of food.

Please make plans to attend this one day event with all staff members that use Assistive Technology in your school system. This event will be sponsored by VDOE and will be provided at no cost to your division. Travel costs including meals and hotel expenses will have to be incurred by your division. The conference hall concession stand will be open for service from 11 am to 1 pm for any lunch or beverage needs. Sign up at <http://georgemasonuniversity.cloverpad.org/Default.aspx?pageId=270260>. Hotel information is included at this registration site.

Please feel free to contact Mary Wilds at mwilds@ttac.odu.edu if you have any questions. We look forward to your school systems attendance at this important event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Eisenberg".

John Eisenberg
Director of Instructional Support and Related Service
Virginia Department of Education