

## National Center for Technology Innovation Advancing Technology Innovations for All Students

The National Center for Technology Innovation (NCTI) advances learning opportunities for *all* students, with a special focus on individuals with disabilities. Funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) at the U.S. Department of Education and located at the American Institutes for Research, NCTI offers technical guidance to facilitate growth and sustainability of assistive and learning tools by fostering innovative technology solutions.

Our work informs technology innovators and educational leaders by providing high-quality resources and cultivating collaborative partnerships to improve the quality of technology tools to make a true difference in the lives of students with special needs. Serving as a connector, NCTI is uniquely positioned to bring together and facilitate collaboration among key stakeholders—leading researchers, innovators, technology developers, vendors, policymakers, and practitioners. To support this work, NCTI offers a wide range of strategies and services to do the following:

- **Foster a Collaborative Community.** To advance the field, NCTI ensures that the right leaders are at the table representing the voice of students with disabilities. NCTI offers the following resources:
  - **NCTI Web site.** An interactive information portal providing access to leading experts and participation in online exchanges on emerging technology innovations ([www.NationalTechCenter.org](http://www.NationalTechCenter.org)).
  - **Yellow Pages.** A user-friendly, online directory containing project descriptions and contact details; linking to more than 700 special education technology projects; and allowing users to connect with developers, publishers, technical assistance providers, and vendors.
  - **QuickClicks.** Our bi-monthly electronic newsletter, *QuickClicks*, disseminates timely and useful news article and reports to assist our stakeholders in remaining informed on the latest issues and current on emerging trends.
  - **Technology Innovators Conference.** An engaging international forum for leading innovators, public and private funders, venture capitalists, policymakers, and media to discuss the challenges and solutions driving the field.
  - **Interactive Webinars.** Online platform bringing together leading experts sharing innovative ideas and best practices regarding pressing assistive technology issues.

- **Provide High-Quality and Free Resources.** To keep the field current, NCTI tracks technology innovation and offers a series of powerful tools, online modules, and resources:
  - **TechMatrix.** A resource ([www.techmatrix.org](http://www.techmatrix.org)) for educators, vendors, and parents to identify relevant tools and research on mathematics, reading, writing, and assistive technologies.
  - **NCTI Issue Briefs.** A series of timely, user-friendly briefs that spotlight current issues related to technology innovation including:
    - “Moving Toward Solutions: Assistive and Learning Technologies for All Students,” offers key recommendations to the field based on more than 100 interviews with thought leaders.
    - “The Power of Social Media to Promote Assistive and Learning Technologies: A Collaborative Issue Brief,” looks at emerging tools to show how they can be used to enhance the field of learning and assistive technology.
    - “Learning and Assistive Technology: Thriving in a Global Marketplace,” explores international trends and why they matter to the learning and assistive technology field.
- **Offer Business and Marketing Consulting Services.** To thrive in today’s competitive market, technology developers and vendors need to be entrepreneurial and possess savvy business skills to navigate the ever-changing marketplace. To help entrepreneurs reach their goals, NCTI offers several resources:
  - **Business Consultations.** Strategic guidance in the development of marketing plans and constructive reviews of products and tools.
  - **Commercialization Online Modules.** Valuable resources for innovators and developers on critical issues involved in bringing new or improved technologies to the marketplace.
  - **Consumer Guide.** Comprehensive checklists for consumers to navigate the decision-making process for assistive and learning technologies and guidelines for administrators and vendors specifically designed to facilitate productive and open dialogues in making well-informed vendor selections.
- **Monitor Funding Opportunities.** NCTI tracks private and public funding streams that support the development and dissemination of innovative technology tools and resources. In addition, useful tips are offered for writing proposals that move your ideas to successful business initiatives.
- **Sponsor the Technology in the Works Competition.** NCTI offers an annual competition that provides funding support for collaborative research to study the impact of technology for students with disabilities.