

“Pay It Forward “ with Assistive Technology

With the recent upgrade to iPhone 4s, there are lots of old iPhones that can be put to good, valuable and immediate use by students with disabilities who will benefit from low cost, effective and mobile assistive technology

There is an opportunity to support students with disabilities to access “*mobile*” assistive technology by making a donation of old and/or unused iPhones (version 2 or 3). The VT DOE is working on a statewide Assistive Technology (AT) Project to increase access to assistive technology for students who otherwise might not have an equal opportunity to use this technology in their everyday lives. We are actively looking to convert old iPhones into “cool” AT devices to help students gain access to digital text, communication and other academic apps.

The idea is to help make available to students with disabilities a modified iPhone to function more like an “iTouch”. To make this happen we are seeking donated “old” iPhones that folks may have lying around because they have upgraded to an iPhone 4. When we convert these older iPhones to AT devices we *do not* “turn the phone on” (we don’t put a SIM card in), but simply use the WiFi function to run iBooks, Bookshare, iSpeak iT , etc.

Please consider this as an opportunity to make a difference in a student’s life and “Pay It Forward “. For more information about this unique project please contact Michael Ferguson. VT DOE Assistive Technology Project Director. michael.ferguson@state.vt.us