



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction

2025-26 AT Forward Community of Practice (CoP) Meetings

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration/Recordings
September 10, 2025 12:00pm-1:00pm	2025-2026 AT Forward CoP Kickoff: Join us to meet the AT Forward team and connect with others from around the state to learn about exciting AT Forward updates, including recently published AT and AEM resources and updates to the ATLC.	AT Forward Team	AT Forward Kickoff: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slide Deck

2025-2026 AT Forward Community of Practice (CoP) Meetings

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration/Recordings
<p>September 23, 2025 12:00pm-1:00pm</p>	<p>AT to Support Social/Emotional/Mental Health During this community of practice, we'll explore how assistive technology can be used to support students' social, emotional, and mental health needs in both general and special education settings. Participants will learn about low-tech and high-tech tools that can promote self-regulation, reduce anxiety, build coping skills, and create more emotionally accessible learning environments. From browser extensions and wearable timers to apps for mindfulness and emotional tracking, this session will provide practical, classroom-ready strategies and resources.</p>	<p>Cassie Frost</p>	<p>AT to Support Social/Emotional/Mental Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Slide Deck <p>Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Part 1: Awareness to Understanding: How AT Can Assist Students ● Part 2: Examples and IEP Suggestions ● Part 3: Other Tools from AI to Journaling

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<p>October 7, 2025 12:00pm-1:00pm</p>	<p>AAC: Implementation Guide This session will build upon last year's discussion on AAC assessment, offering a practical decision tree to navigate the complexities of successful implementation. Participants will be guided through essential components, including strategies for developing and teaching both core and fringe vocabulary, practical device programming tips, fostering critical literacy skills, effective AAC modeling techniques, the rationale behind color-coding and motor planning, and a wealth of resources for each area. This session aims to equip attendees with actionable steps and comprehensive support for robust AAC integration.</p>	<p>Dawn Merth-Johnson Kathy White Jennifer Seale</p>	<p>AAC: Implementation Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Slide Deck <p>Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Part 1: Plans, Vocabulary and the Processing of Language ● Part 2: Modeling, Motor Memory, Masking, and Multilingual ● Part 3: Device Monitoring, Maintenance, and the Partnership Program

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<p>October 15, 2025 12:00pm-1:00pm</p>	<p>Tear Down Reading Barriers with Bookshare Is it difficult to motivate struggling readers? Do you work with students who are non-proficient in reading or need books in accessible formats? Bookshare can help!</p> <p>Bookshare is a FREE ebook library that supports struggling readers. Bookshare is built specifically for students with learning and reading differences like dyslexia, visual impairments, and physical disabilities. With over 1 million titles all available in audio, digital text with synchronized audio, braille, and large print, students are empowered to read in ways that work for them.</p>	<p>Lara Rondberg</p>	<p>Tear Down Reading Barriers with Bookshare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Slide Deck <p>Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Part 1: What is Bookshare and Who is Eligible to Use Bookshare ● Part 2: How to Set up A Bookshare Account ● Part 3: A Wisconsin School District's Experience with Bookshare ● Part 4: How to Read Books in Bookshare

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<p>December 2, 2025 12:00pm-1:00pm</p>	<p>AI and Special Education: Going Beyond Efficiency and Transforming Instructional Practices</p> <p>This session is designed for special educators who are ready to move beyond using AI for productivity, efficiency, and writing IEP goals and are ready to explore the practical applications of AI in the classroom. We will provide a foundational understanding of its potential to both support educators and create transformative learning experiences for students.</p> <p>Participants will explore exemplary uses of AI in various content areas, and learn concrete frameworks for effective AI integration. You will leave with the strategies and resources needed to start thoughtfully and creatively incorporating AI into your instructional practice tomorrow.</p>	<p>Frank Devereaux</p>	<p>AI and Special Education: Going Beyond Efficiency and Transforming Instructional Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Slide Deck <p>Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Part 1: AI Journey Uses Ethics and Guidelines ● Part 2: AI Tools and Real Life Examples

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<p>January 8, 2026 12:00pm-1:00pm</p>	<p>Technology, Access, and Best Practices for Students with Low Vision</p> <p>This session will focus on best practices for those preparing or modifying electronic documents for students who have low vision, color deficits, or other impediments to visual access. Tablet settings and use of other devices to access hard-copy printed materials will also be addressed. Specific goals include: use of font, spacing, color, and text attributes (i.e. bold or italics) when creating documents for either electronic or hard-copy access as well as vision accessibility settings on tablets or computers to increase access to electronic files.</p>	<p>Amy Snow</p>	<p>Technology, Access, and Best Practices for Students with Low Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Slide Deck <p>Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Part 1: Accessibility Font Text, Color, Images and Other Attributes ● Part 2: Document Accessibility ● Part 3: Device and Built-In Accessibility

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Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration/Recordings
<p>February 3, 2026 12:00pm-1:00pm</p>	<p>AAC: Assessment and Resources This session explores a comprehensive decision tree specifically designed to empower speech-language pathologists in conducting thorough and effective Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) assessments. This practical guide walks participants through critical steps, including informed device selection, navigating funding processes, implementing robust data collection methods, precise feature matching, crafting impactful assessment reports, setting meaningful goals, and writing persuasive reports for funding. The session will also highlight numerous updated resources for each crucial area, ensuring SLPs have the tools to make well-informed decisions for their students.</p>	<p>Dawn Merth-Johnson Kathy White</p>	<p>AAC Assessment Guide and Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Slide Deck ● Videos coming soon!

2025-2026 AT Forward Community of Practice (CoP) Meetings

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration/Recordings
<p>February 19, 2026 12:00pm-1:00pm</p>	<p>Feature Matching : Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) This one hour session will be presented by Matt Palma and Laura Plummer. This one-hour session delves into the critical process of feature matching for individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH). We will explore how to ask targeted questions that guide teams toward selecting assistive technology tools based on their inherent features, rather than specific brand names. Participants will learn to identify key characteristics of AT that align with the unique sensory, communication, and functional needs of DHH learners ensuring thoughtful and effective tool selection for enhanced independence and participation.</p>	<p>Matt Palma Laura Plummer</p>	<p>Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.</p>

2025-2026 AT Forward Community of Practice (CoP) Meetings

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<p>March 4, 2026 12:00pm-1:00pm</p>	<p>Feature Matching: Adaptive Daily Living Skills</p> <p>This session will be presented by Kathy Sween (OT) and Kathy White (AT). Adaptive daily living skills are the essential, everyday tasks that allow an individual to live as independently as possible. By combining them with Assistive technology (AT) students can become empowered. This process of Feature Matching is not random; it requires a thoughtful, collaborative approach using the SETT Process and feature matching. By analyzing the student's specific needs and matching them to the functional features of an AT device, we ensure the tool is a true enabler of independence.</p>	<p>Kathy Sween Kathy White</p>	<p>Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.</p>

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<p>April 28, 2026 12:00pm-1:00pm</p>	<p>Coaching for Sustainable Assistive Technology Impact Come and explore the dynamic intersection of Assistive Technology (AT) and coaching. During this session, we will examine the distinctions between coaching, collaboration, and consultation and reflect on their roles in fostering collective efficacy within their teams. The session will also highlight ways to empower educators and staff to tell their AT success stories using meaningful data that communicates student impact and drives sustainable practices. Participants will walk away with actionable tools to build trust, spark engagement, and lead with purpose in their coaching roles.</p>	<p>Paige Buckingham</p>	<p>Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.</p>
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2025-2026 AT Forward Community of Practice (CoP) Meetings

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration/Recordings
<p>May 6, 2026 12:00pm-1:00pm</p>	<p>Accessible Gadgets for Gamers: Evaluating and Applying Video Game Accessibility in Therapeutic Settings: Technology-based interventions are rapidly becoming a cornerstone of modern practice, as smartphones, tablets, assistive technology, and even video games offer powerful new ways to foster independence and engagement. This session will empower educators and therapists to integrate non-traditional, digital tools into their clinical practice, especially through the lens of accessible gaming. Attendees will explore how video games can be adapted to meet diverse needs, learn strategies for evaluating accessibility, and walk away with practical applications that enhance therapeutic outcomes through innovative technology.</p>	<p>Erik Johnson</p>	<p>Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.</p>