

# Special Education Technology Center

inclusive insights & access tips

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## Igniting a Love of Reading

Educators hold the key to igniting a lifelong passion for reading, as emphasized by Kathryn Starke in [Developing a Love for Reading in Students](#). Motivation to read can arise from exposure to representative texts, diverse genres, and the use of audiobooks, graphic novels, and switch-accessible texts. [Kyleen Gray highlights](#) that the ultimate goal is connecting students with books they love to enhance engagement. Embracing diverse reading options becomes essential in igniting a love of reading and promoting a more inclusive and engaging approach to literacy.

Recognizing the fundamental role of reading, educators understand that addressing diverse literacy needs not only boosts students' competence but also fosters confidence across academic subjects. While some students naturally embrace reading, others may not due to diverse learning styles and abilities that necessitate alternative access to reading options. Encouraging a broad spectrum of reading options not only accommodates diverse needs but also promotes a culture that values every individual's unique pathway to understanding and enjoying literature.



## Inclusive Reading Options

Promoting alternative options to access text allows for personalized learning experiences. [Graphic novels](#) cater to visual learners and can offer meaning-making about the larger illustrated world while audiobooks offer an auditory avenue to grade-level texts. [Text-to-speech](#) aids those with decoding difficulties and may also be a vital accommodation that opens access to and engagement in grade-level books and curriculum.

## Self-Selected Reading

Students with complex needs should have access to self-selected reading choices. Consider providing switch-accessible texts on both Chrome and iPad, as well as short, topic-specific, and accessible stories available through [Tar Heel Reader](#). Check out these helpful tips specific to Tar Heel Reader: [switch access with a chrome book or laptop](#), and [how to save favorites in Tar Heel Reader](#) for easy access to a student's book choices.

## CFLA Book Collection

Comprehensive Literacy for All (CFLA) is an evidence-based methodology for teaching students with significant disabilities to read and write ([Karen Erickson and David Koppenhaver](#)). SETC's own [CLFA book collection](#) is an amazing interactive tool for educators to easily find children's books paired with a variety of literacy activities, visuals, and strategies. This is a dynamic resource with frequent updates based on requests. Be sure to look for our "book nook" recommendations in future issues of "new and notable"!

## new and notable



[2/06/24, Conversations with Dr. Koppenhaver – Session 2: Let's Talk About Emergent Reading](#)

[2/07/24, Clicker to Support Early Learners](#)

[2/12/24, iOS 17: Navigating New Accessibility Features for Users with Blindness or Low Vision](#)

[2/13/24, AT Accommodations in State Testing: 2024 Updates and Panel Discussion](#)

[2/20/24, Clicker Books for Everyone!](#)

[2/20/24, Cultivating Communication, Independence & Agency with Video Scene Displays and Video Modeling](#)

