

# Learning & Teaching

Technology in Learning: iPad Accessibility Features

*March 3, 2025*

***Presented by:***

Dr. Jonas Greene - Director of Digital Learning

Cathy Fields - Administrator of Digital Learning

Julia Solnek-Frazier- Instructional Technology Professional Learning Coordinator

Jenae Lysinger- Speech/Language Therapist

Lauren Able- SPED Interventionist

# Background Information



## **Device Access:**

- Students in grades PK-3 have access to class sets of iPads.
- Students in grades 4-12 can opt into the district's 1:X program to receive an iPad.

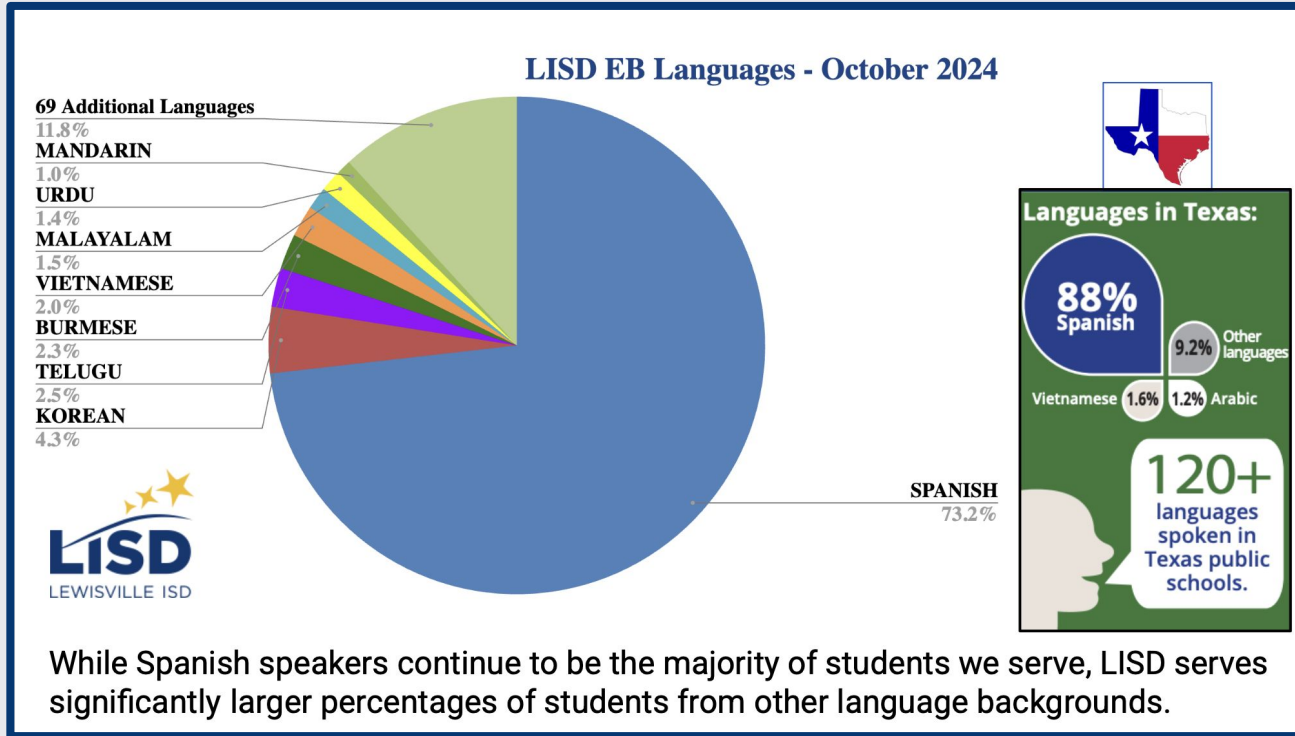
## **Device Refresh:**

- Student iPad refreshes were completed in Fall 2024.
- Accessibility features on the iPad were highlighted as an advantage by the Device Evaluation Committee.

## **Impact of Accessibility Features:**

- Accessibility features support all learners in acquisition of content.
- They have a particularly significant impact on Special Education, Bilingual, and ESL students.

# Recall EB Languages in LISD



# Recall LISD Graduation rates



LISD All Students	LISD English Learner (EL/EB)	LISD Special Education
95.5%	86.8%	93.6%
96.4%	89.0%	92.3%



# Technology Application TEKS

## Practical Technology Concepts



### Strand: Practical Technology Concepts

Students build their knowledge of software applications and hardware focusing on keyboarding and use of applications and tools.

#### *Substrand - skills and tools*

The student demonstrates knowledge and appropriate use of technology systems, concepts, and operations. **The student is expected to:**

#### *Substrand - skills and tools*

The student selects appropriate methods or techniques for an assigned task and identifies and solves simple hardware and software problems using common troubleshooting strategies. **The student is expected to:**

#### *Substrand - skills and tools*

The student leverages technology systems, concepts, and operations to produce digital artifacts. **The student is expected to:**

**K.8A** use a variety of applications, devices, and online learning environments to engage with content;

**1.9A** select and use a variety of applications, devices, and online learning environments to create an original product;

**2.10A** select and use a variety of applications, devices, and online learning environments to create and share content;

**3.11A** compare and contrast applications such as word processor, spreadsheet, and presentation tools for relevance to an assigned task;

**4.11A** evaluate and choose applications for relevance to an assigned task;

**6.12C** select and use the appropriate platform and tools to complete a specific task or project

**7.12C** select and use appropriate platform and tools, **including** selecting and using software or hardware for a defined task

**8.12C** select and use appropriate platform and tools, **including** selecting and using software or hardware to transfer data


# iPadOS Accessibility Features


## Mobility

 **Dictation**  
speech-to-text wherever you can place a cursor


 **AssistiveTouch**  
adapt iPad touchscreen to fit your needs


## Hearing


 **Live Captions**  
real-time transcription of spoken audio


 **Voice Memos**  
transcription of Voice Memos


## Vision


 **VoiceOver**  
speak what's on screen and navigate iPad with gestures

 **Display Colors**  
make it easier to see what's on screen

 **Magnifier App**  
use iPad as a magnifying glass

 **LiveText**  
translate environmental print

 **Text Size**  
make text bigger and bolder across iPad system and Apps


 **Speak Screen**  
have iPad read all text on the screen/what you're typing


## Speech

 **Text-to-Speech**  
wherever you can highlight text, can also be translated

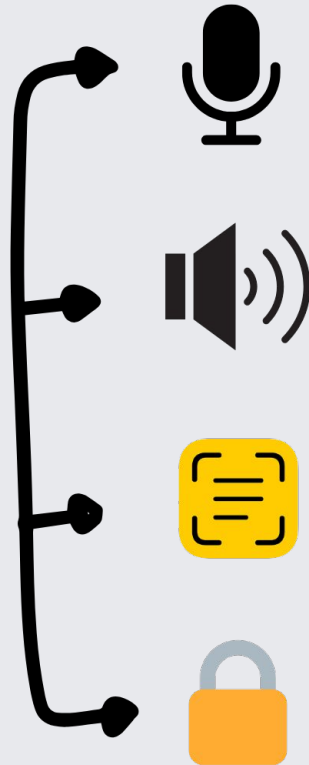
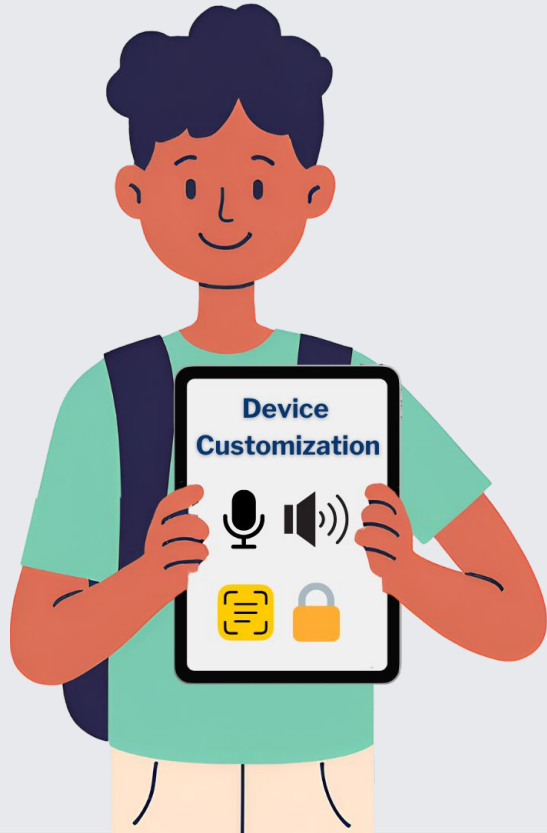
 **Voice Commands**  
speak commands to navigate iPad

## Cognitive

 **Keep iPad Simple**  
simplified iPad interface

 **Guided Access**  
limit iPad access to a single App

# iPadOS Accessibility Features



**Speech-to-Text**



**Text-to-Speech**



**Translation**



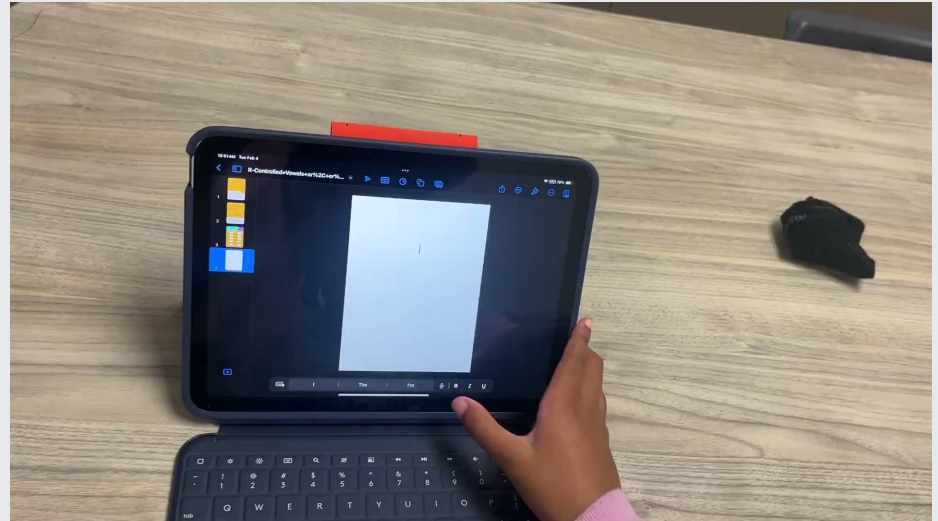
**Guided Access**



# Speech-to-Text

**Allows students to dictate written responses anywhere a cursor can be placed on the screen.**

- Not limited to a specific program
- Available in multiple languages



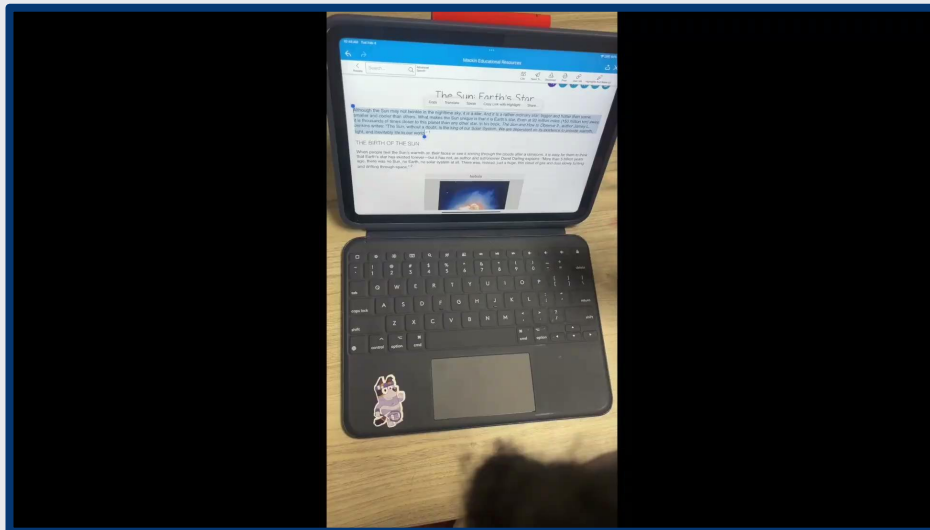




# Text-to-Speech

**Text on the iPad can be read back to students. Additional options are included in Safari for listening to websites.**

- Pause, change reading rate and select voice
- Not limited to a specific program
- Available in multiple languages

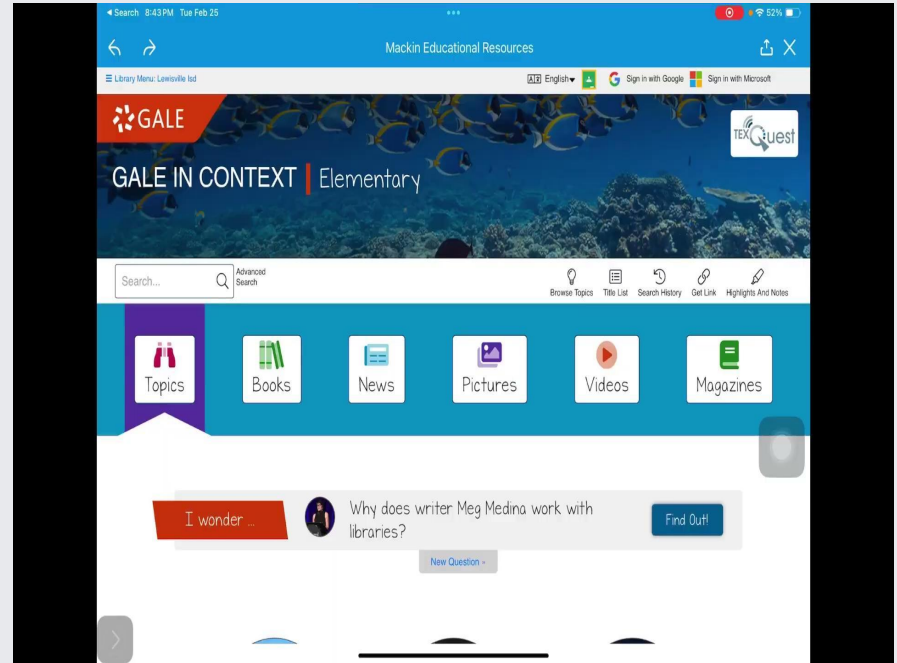




# Translation

**Students can use LiveText to translate environmental print or highlight text to translate within device content.**

- Translate from the camera, within a photo, in a video, or send to the Translation App
- Anywhere a cursor is present, translations can occur
- Not limited to a specific program
- Available in multiple languages
- Translations can be combined with text-to-speech





# Guided Access

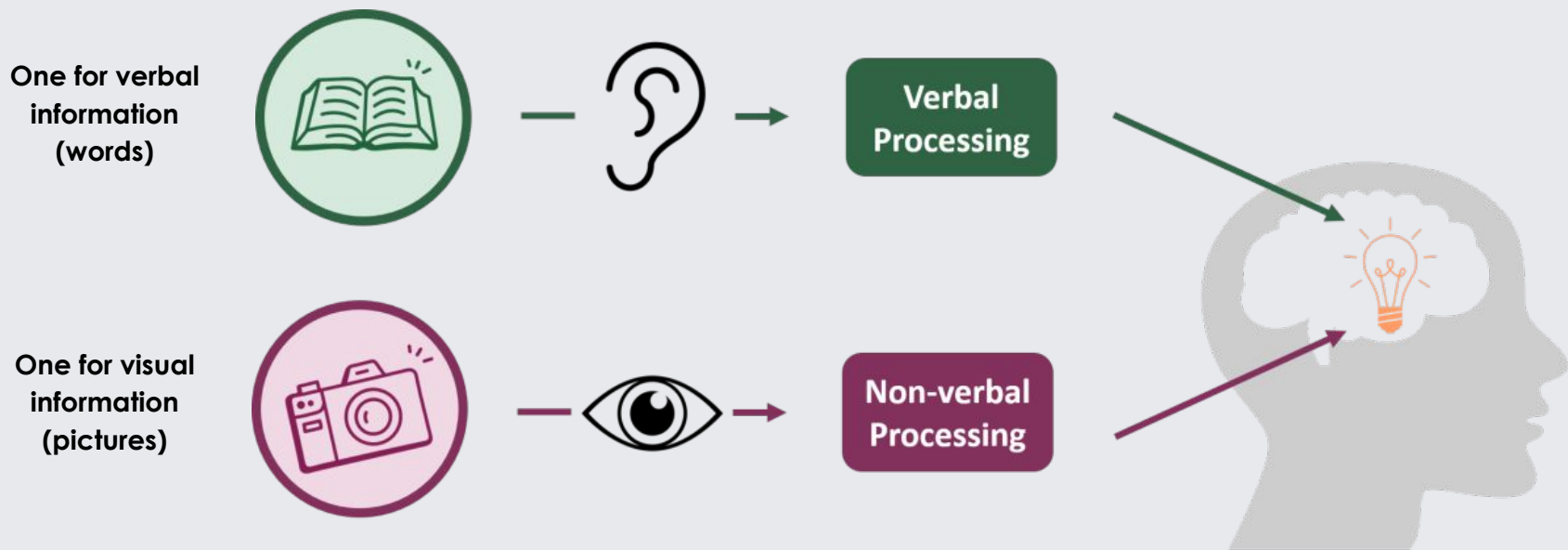
**Guided Access limits students' access to a single App at a time on the iPad, preventing navigation to other Apps or features. This supports student:**

- **Focus and Attention:** helps students prone to distractions stay focused on task
- **Preventing Accidental Changes:** students with motor skill challenges may accidentally exit Apps/change settings- Guided Access prevents this, ensuring intended learning occurs
- **Individualized Learning:** tailors the device experience to each student's needs, disabling buttons or screen areas not needed



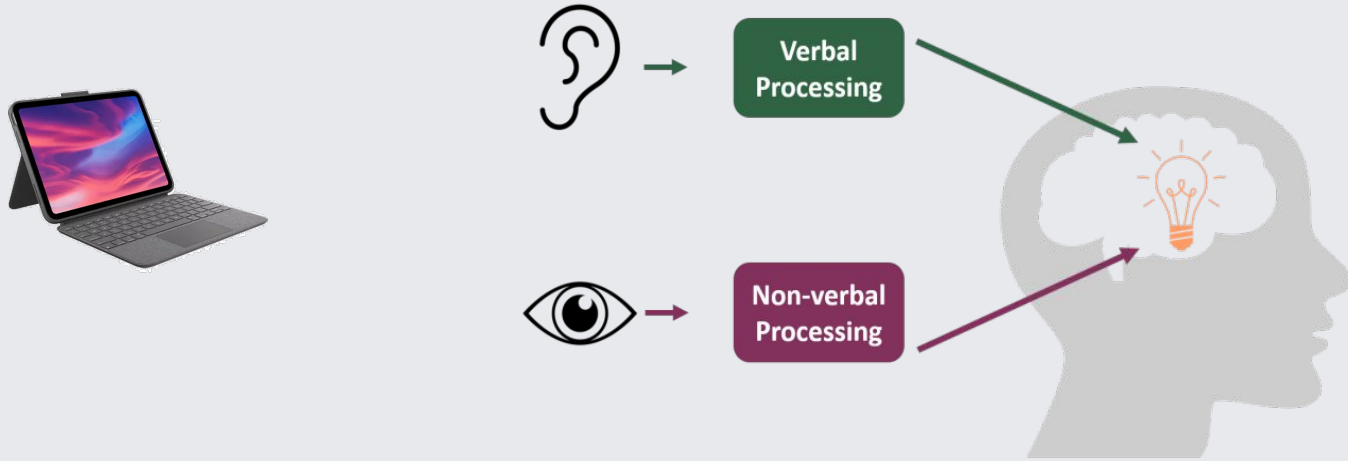
# Accessibility Impacts ALL!

Based on Dual Coding Theory by Dr Allan Paivio  
our brains process information through two separate channels:



# Accessibility impacts ALL!

By using technology as a tool, we can leverage the strengths of both channels.



**Because we have access to devices in LISD, educators are giving our learners top of the line instructions and creating inclusive classrooms where all students have the opportunity to thrive.**

# Impact on Special Education: Self Contained Settings

Access to an updated device supports our learners in LISD's specially designed SPED programs, such as our Communication classrooms, Behavioral Intervention classroom, and Life Skills classrooms.

## **Improved Communication:**

Features like Text to Speech, Live Captions, and Dictation can help students with communication difficulties to express themselves more effectively.



## **Enhanced Engagement**

By making learning more accessible and engaging, these features can help to increase student motivation and participation.



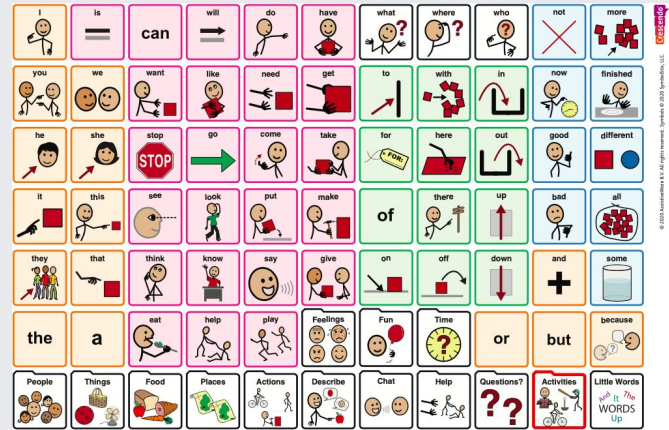
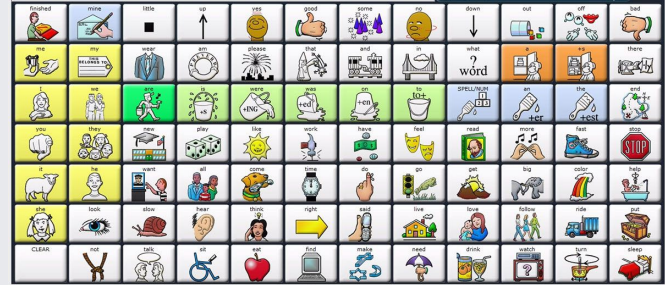
## **Increased Independence:**

These features can help students to become more independent learners, allowing them to access and complete assignments with less assistance.



# Impact on Special Education: Speech/Language

- Receptive Language:
  - text-to-speech supports
  - video captions
  - live captioning
  - transcription of voice memos
- Expressive Language, Articulation, Voice, Fluency:
  - Speech-to-text
  - Variety of apps to provide an alternate communication for students who have difficulty or do not use oral speech





# Training for Staff & Students

- Customized professional learning for campus staff.
- Support documents in *Teaching with Tech* located in the Learning Hub
  - iPad Accessibility Features
  - MacBook Accessibility Features

## iPad Accessibility Features

The iPad comes equipped with a wide variety of accessibility features that will read and write for students. These can all be found in the **Settings** of the student's iPad.

### Text-Speech

There are two ways to use Text-Speech on the iPad.

- To enable both go to:  
Settings >  
Accessibility >  
Spoken Content

Once in **Spoken Content** there are several options you can select.














- **Speak Selection (1)** will read text that is highlighted.
- **Speak Screen (2)** will read the whole screen once the gesture is performed.
- Enabling **Highlight Content (3)** will allow you to determine how you want the content to appear when read, the highlight style and highlight colors.
- **Speaking Rate (4)** will control how quickly the content is read.

LESD TOTAL LEARNING

1001 | Learning and Teaching



# Questions

<h3>Mobility</h3> <p> <b>Dictation</b> speech-to-text wherever you can place a cursor</p> <p> <b>AssistiveTouch</b> adapt iPad touchscreen to fit your needs</p>	<h3>Hearing</h3> <p> <b>Live Captions</b> real-time transcription of spoken audio</p> <p> <b>Voice Memos</b> transcription of Voice Memos</p>
<h3>Vision</h3> <p> <b>VoiceOver</b> speak what's on screen and navigate iPad with gestures</p> <p> <b>Display Colors</b> make it easier to see what's on screen</p> <p> <b>Magnifier App</b> use iPad as a magnifying glass</p> <p> <b>LiveText</b> translate environmental print</p> <p> <b>Text Size</b> make text bigger and bolder across iPad system and Apps</p> <p> <b>Speak Screen</b> have iPad read all text on the screen/what you're typing</p>	<h3>Speech</h3> <p> <b>Text-to-Speech</b> wherever you can highlight text, can also be translated</p> <p> <b>Voice Commands</b> speak commands to navigate iPad</p>
	<h3>Cognitive</h3> <p> <b>Keep iPad Simple</b> simplified iPad interface</p> <p> <b>Guided Access</b> limit iPad access to a single App</p>