

# Newletter from the ES

# Council for Teaching & Learning



September 2024

Dear Flexible Teachers,

It is good to be back in CTL, looking ahead together to a wonderful year. With the restructuring of MCEA collaboration committees, we too are thinking of how to do things better and get more “bang for our bucks”. With that- here are a few changes to CTL:

- This year in our CTL meetings we do not have all grade levels represented (because we did not hold new elections last year after the RAs voted on that issue).
- You will no longer get our monthly newsletter sent to you in your email from the representative. You will get a link to the newsletter in the MCEA weekly email.
- Past newsletters are also available for you on the MCEA website, under the CTL tab.
- You are still encouraged to share your concerns with us in [this document](#). We will do our best to respond to those questions and concerns on that same document or in our newsletters. Please note that some issues are under-work and will take time to resolve. We will keep you updated as progress is made.

In our first CTL, we had one of our own share information about her new position at HIAT (High Incidence Accessible Technology). This information is valuable for all teachers.

- HIAT’s purpose is to build capacity for schools and to use technology to improve the performance of struggling students.
- You can use HIAT when you have a student that needs assistive technology (AT) and they are struggling in the classroom. They do NOT need an IEP or 504.
  - Examples:
    - Text to Speech to level the playing field for growth of reading comprehension, decoding, and frequency.
    - Speech to text for kids who can dictate to the computer their written responses instead of having to write them down.
    - Google Read&Write: It’s in Google, works on the phone in chrome and can be used on Kami.
- Here are some related resources:
  - [HIAT Quick Guide](#)
  - [uPAR Overview from the Vendor](#)
  - [Accommodations - Classroom vs. Testing](#)
  - [Research supporting the use of text-to-speech](#)
  - [Clarksburg’s success with using text to speech for all students](#)

- [MCPS AT Support Portal](#)

Reminders:

If you have any questions about anything above or need more information from our meeting this past week, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

If you ever have any questions, concerns, or topics you'd like us to discuss at our meetings, please do not hesitate to reach out to put them in [this document](#) and we will do our best to answer them in the document, in our meetings, and in our monthly letters.

Additional information (Shared last year- but it is still relevant):

- Link to the new curriculum information sheet [HERE](#).
- Principle memo regarding the new ELA curriculum- [see here](#).
- Q & A about the new Amplify CKLA: [here](#).
- Please click [this link](#) for more information, including an accommodation guide.

Sincerely,

Your devoted CTL representatives