

# Literacy Solutions for K-12 Students with Learning Disabilities



## EVERY LEARNER DESERVES TOOLS THAT HELP THEM UNLOCK THEIR POTENTIAL

Struggling learners wait at the gates of literacy hoping that the combination to open the gate is accessible. Literacy and learning solutions from Kurzweil Education™ offer learners a way up and a path forward by providing a combination of both access and support that can be individualized, allowing students to learn in the ways that work best for them.

Using the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), Kurzweil 3000-firefly® is web-based literacy software that enables teachers to support individual student needs, while addressing curriculum requirements for whole class instruction.

### HOW CAN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY BE USED TO ENHANCE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES?

#### 1: Reading

Students who struggle to read grade-level text often don't process the content and can quickly fall behind their classmates. One solution is to have teachers read to the students. But a teacher's instruction time is limited and this solution fails to promote student independence.

With Kurzweil 3000-firefly, students can customize their reading experience. They can choose from over 25 human-like text-to-speech voices, in some instances assigning different voices for each subject to help with recollection. They can also modify the reading speed and can follow along as the highlighted text is being read, or can select any word to hear it read again. This enables students to work at their own pace, and allows them to access and process the content independently.

#### 2: Comprehension

Teachers show students how to highlight text to demonstrate they understand the concept, but it's much more difficult to convert those highlights into outlines, study guides and reports.

Students can easily extract their highlights and convert them into a variety of study guides with Kurzweil 3000-firefly! They can also highlight vocabulary words to immediately get definitions, create vocabulary study guides, or create outlines that seamlessly flow into graphic organizers and writing templates.

#### 3: Demonstration of Knowledge

An area where technology is increasingly important is ensuring that all students are being evaluated on a level playing field. How can you be sure that your students with learning differences are being evaluated on what they know in a given subject area rather than their ability to read or process test instructions?

In some states, Kurzweil 3000-firefly is an approved testing accommodation. Consequently, educators are able to evaluate students' abilities more accurately—which is further enhanced by usage reporting data found in Kurzweil 3000-firefly.

#### 4: Writing with Kurzweil

The Kurzweil Writing Templates can support all learners. The Writing Templates open in Brainstorm mode and can be viewed as Outline or Draft using the Writing Toolbar. Support Notes give students a guide and direction. Once you open the writing tools the talking Spell Checker, Word Prediction and Word List features provide language and vocabulary support.

Kurzweil 3000-firefly is all-in-one literacy software that facilitates the writing process from beginning to end.







