DT Trainer Justification

Problem Addressed

Some students, including many with autism, need extensive amounts of one-on-one or low student to teacher ratio to learn. These students are very expensive to teach, and school districts are challenged financially to provide the required and appropriate amount of individualized instruction. With the use of effective technology, these same students might well be able to learn independently at least some of what teachers need them to know. Accelerations Educational Software (AES) provides educational software relatively inexpensively. This allows teachers and school districts to further promote their students' learning in a more cost efficient and effective manner.

Key Features and Benefits

- Teaches **receptive language and concepts**
- **Evidence based** on over 40 years of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) research
- Incorporates **ABA teaching methods** which allow the program to be effective with some of the most cognitively impaired students
- Highly adaptable for a **wide range of students**
- **Mouse**, **touchscreen**, single and double **switch** input
- Teacher selects content programs and reinforcers, and the program **automatically orchestrates sessions**
- **Collects** the training **data** and **provides** progress **reports**
- **Large program** - over 250 content programs, and 100s of reinforcers
- **Wide range of reinforcers** to motivate even highly resistive students
- **Content is age appropriate based on cognitive levels** so older students do not resent
- Uses **photo icons**, **multiple exemplars**, and **randomized SDs (instructions)** to help **generalization**
- Can be the **only activity some students are able to do independently**, which helps give these students more self-confidence and a sense of success
- Provides **lead teaching** as well as **maintenance**
- Frequently **enables learning where previous teaching has not resulted in success** resulting in lifelong impacts on independence, self-determination, and employability
- **Models behavioral teaching** to educational staff

Educational Considerations

- **Highly leverages teaching resources**
- **Virtual teaching assistant** in classroom or home
- Now **used in over 1000** US public **school districts**
- Used with up to **33% impact** on special education
- Students generally use DT Trainer **15-30 minutes per day**
- **Supports IEP goals** and **provides evidence** of learning
- For students **developmentally 2-9** years old
- Used with **young children to adults**
- Covers **receptive language**, **early academics**, and **life skills**
- Content ranges from **matching and identification** of objects, colors, and letters to **time**, **money**, **and math word problems**
- Supports **generalization** and maintenance
- Excellent way **to increase instructional effectiveness**
- Use the DT Trainer to attempt to **teach topics that have not been previously learned**…. The intensity and presentation can significantly increase opportunities for improved results.

Budgetary Considerations

- **Highly leverages financial resources**
- **Value vs. human cost:** The DT Trainer is like having a **virtual teaching assistant** in the classroom for well less than **1/100 the cost** of a teaching assistant
- **Value vs. special education student budget:** Based on 20 minutes use per day for a student, the DT Trainer would provide about 5%-10% of instructional time for 0.1%-0.2% per year of one year's student budget giving a technology leverage of 25-100 times
- **Value vs. typical pricing:** Pre-discount pricing vs. typical special education software is 1/10 to 1/16 the cost
- Cost effective way to **teach concepts that students had not experienced success with in the past** which has **impacts on future education and adult care costs**
- Cost effective way to help **compensate for increased student to teacher ratios** in these tight budgetary times
- A **sound investment** in educational technology that has short-term and long-term benefits