>> Welcome to Closing The Gap Solutions.

This webinar, Complying with

Required Student Accommodations During Remote and Hybrid Learning,

was recorded December 10th,

2020, and was presented by Jessica Kellem and Yevgen Borodin.

Jessica is the CEO of AT-Elevated and the Founding

Center Program Lead for DSST Public Schools.

Yevgen is the CEO of Capti Voice and a Research Professor at Stony Brook University.

>> Well, we're at 5 o'clock.

If you don't mind, we might as well start.

I am [NOISE] here to welcome you.

I'm Rita Ferrandino.

I will be your hostess today for the [NOISE]

"Complying with Required Student Accommodations

During Remote and Hybrid Learning" webinar today.

I serve as the Innovation Consultant

at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education.

I'm delighted to be here today with my colleagues,

Dr. Yevgen Borodin, and you're going to get to hear from him.

He is a Research Professor at Stony Brook University who has dedicated

his entire professional career to best practices in accommodations,

and especially computer accessibility.

Then we've got [NOISE] my friend and colleague, Jessica Kellem here.

She is a superstar.

She is a practitioner [NOISE] who has

great experience in the classroom and out of the classroom,

helping students with special needs.

It's her passion, and she is going to be giving you some [NOISE] tactical tips

today on [NOISE] tools and ideas for how you can comply with student accommodations.

[NOISE] Let's get started.

[NOISE] Can we have the next slide?

Just a couple of boring housekeeping items.

Everyone is muted.

If you have a question,

use the chat button at the bottom.

It doesn't look like we have Q and A,

so let's use chat.

Tell us what you want. We want this to be interactive.

We are going to do some polls,

so participate if you can.

We will have a recording and the slides available afterwards.

The beauty of this webinar today

is that you will be able to receive continuing education credits.

You just need to follow the directions to be able to get that.

In order to get your continuing education credits,

you do have to participate for the full 45 minutes,

which you're going to be so enthralled with the webinar that you'll want to stay on,

[NOISE] I'm sure, for the entire 45 minutes,

but that is the requirement.

Can we have the next slide?

Let's just get a sense of who's on the call so we can tailor the content to you all.

If you don't mind,

just plug-in there.

[NOISE] That's it.

Looks like we've got some of everybody.

We've got classroom teachers,

OTs, some AT specialists, some administrators.

[NOISE] That's it.

We have a few more people we're waiting on to participate.

Just hit the poll.

We've got 14 of the 21 attendees.

[NOISE] All right.

I'll just share the results.

We know that we've got quite a diverse group here participating today,

so we will keep that in mind,

and again, use the chat button if you have any questions.

[NOISE] Can I have the next slide?

This event, you are getting your continuing education credits for participating,

is sponsored by Google for Education,

thank you, Google, and Capti.

Capti, you're going to get to hear a little bit more from during the presentation today.

It is a tool to help accommodate,

assess, and advance reading in struggling readers.

At the bottom, you'll see how you can get information on Capti.

Again, thank you to our sponsors,

Google and Capti, for making this available.

Next slide. The panel today is myself, [NOISE].

I am here from the Innovation Center at

the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education,

where we work exclusively with innovative, game-changing, next-generation products.

I was introduced to Capti

through my colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education,

and we've invited Dr. Yevgen Borodin to speak to

you about his research in accommodations and computer accessibility.

He is going to share with you some of the latest trends and things that are happening,

and then we're going to turn it over.

The next panelist will be Jessica Kellem,

who is the CEO at AT-Elevated,

and she does work at

the Founding Center Program for the DTTS Public Schools in Denver, Colorado.

Welcome, Dr. Borodin, Jessica.

[NOISE] Let's get to the next slide and [NOISE] let Gen take it from here.

>> Thank you, Rita. I was just trying to

figure out how to delete those lines from the screen.

This is what we're going to cover today.

I'm going to give a quick intro and then hand it over to Jessica.

Reading plays such an important part in our lives

and most of us take this very complex skill for granted.

When I was doing my dissertation research some 10-15 years ago,

I saw how difficult it was for students with learning

disabilities to read and perform other task on the computer.

So I vowed to build the practical,

easy-to-use assistive technology that would level the playing field for these students,

and anyone else who needed a leg up.

[NOISE] I got support from multiple federal agencies,

including the Department of Education, NSF and others,

to build the next generation tool that would help students become independent readers,

and help you educators focus on teaching rather than

spending time juggling various apps and trying to accommodate struggling readers.

Because after all, regardless of whether your students are reading independently,

you're in the middle of it all.

[NOISE] But every classroom being so incredibly

diverse and every student having unique needs and abilities,

it really falls on you to ensure that all of

your students get the best education possible.

I deeply understand, and I want to

acknowledge both how difficult and how important your job is.

[NOISE] In my research,

when it comes to reading and accessibility,

I found these to be the primary challenges for educators.

It's either finding inaccessible content to making it accessible,

delivering that content to the classroom or homework or doing testing,

and ultimately helping students with disabilities become independent readers,

independent learners, and independent members of a society.

It is your job to make those things happen,

and as if it hasn't been hard enough,

2020 made it that much harder.

The old challenges didn't really go away,

they just became more difficult.

You still have to do all those things,

but now we need to do them remotely,

and student independence is now that much more important.

I want to do another quick poll to see how

confident you feel that you are able to provide

all your students with accommodations on

your current learning platforms to stay compliant with IEP or Section 504.

This is anonymous poll, so don't hesitate. All right. [OVERLAPPING]

>> I'm going to need to hear from some of these super confident people.

Maybe in the chat you can share some of the platforms that you're currently

using that you feel provide those accommodations well.

I'd love to hear.

>> All right. Here are the results.

We have several people who are super confident,

and then a number of you are somewhat confident.

I hope today's presentation will help you get from where you are now to super-confident.

This is where I hand off to Jessica.

>> Thanks, Yevgen. Thanks, Rita.

Like Rita had mentioned I am a Special Education Teacher by trade.

I have been out of the classroom last few years,

developing Center programs for DSST Public Schools in Denver,

which stands for Denver School Science and Technology,

and within that research and development phase,

I found this passion for assistive technology.

I have always worked with it in the classroom,

mostly through the form of AC devices which some of you may or may not be familiar with.

It's just grown from there.

I have since founded my own company AT-Elevated,

where we work with individuals, schools,

and companies to promote accessibility

and increase awareness of

all the things that exist out there and how to use the tools that exist.

I really love Capti.

I think that for me personally navigating

remote learning for exceptional students has been a huge challenge.

Personally, for me, I think even being an assistive technology

professional and norming things at a school level has been challenging.

You want to make sure everyone is aware of what accommodations

exist and how to make sure that they are being met online.

I think it is hard enough to have accommodations met when we were in person,

but adding the barrier of being on

two different sides of the screen has been a new challenge,

and I think that Capti has helped to remediate a lot of those problems for me,

and my students, and my staff members.

So I'm really grateful to show you guys a few things that Capti has to offer

to help increase compliance and really consolidate a lot of different platforms.

I think Yevgen had mentioned,

just some of the executive functioning pieces that

reading struggles have and all the cliques that we have to go

through on all these screens and I think Capti does a really nice job of

streamlining all the different pieces and bringing them into one.

So excited to show you more,

you want to go to the next slide there.

Well, I guess we're going to jump right in.

I am going to show you guys what Capti is all about.

Yevgen, I am going to go ahead and share my screen now

and show you guys a thing or two here.

The first thing is the Capti extension.

If you guys worked on Google Chrome,

which I am assuming all of you have,

you know that you can go ahead and add extensions onto your Google.

I like to pin Capti into my little bar up here,

so if I am working in a platform such as Newsela,

I can go ahead and highlight the text.

Teaching the kids to use these tools has been pretty easy,

that it seems to be very intuitive to a lot of students these days.

You can just highlight the text and it will have these nice little buttons pop up here,

it'll play it for you so you can listen to whatever the word is.

It really puts a lot of power back into the student's hands,

to promote independence rather than having to sit

on a million different calls with a million different students.

Once you teach them how to use these tools,

they can have that independence back and they won't necessarily have

to rely on having an adult there to read it.

I am going to go ahead and show you these nice voices in Capti.

>> Though she is just 15 years old,

Gitanjali Rao is already a scientist and inventor.

This week, the impressive young woman earned another title:

Time magazine has chosen her as its first Kid of the Year.

>> Hopefully, you all could hear that.

[LAUGHTER] There is a lot of really good voices in the Capti software,

less robotic than some of the other text-to-speech softwares, I have worked with,

and there's all different accents depending on where you are

in the country or what's relevant for your students.

I really loved the feature of,

built-in extension because you can use it anywhere.

Another feature I use on the extension quite often is the translation button.

I have a lot of Spanish-speaking students here in Denver,

and it's of course the end goal to have them reading in both languages.

But it's nice that this feature exists;

very quick, easy way to bridge the language gap there.

Look at all these languages.

I don't even know how to pronounce half of these,

so there is tons of translation,

there is this text-to-speech.

Then, you can go ahead and you can just dump whatever article,

whatever website you are on and you can put it directly into Capti.

You can add it to Capti.

Then, it's going to bring it in there for you.

It said in my playlist,

so I am going to show you guys what a playlist looks like.

Hopefully, you all can still see that.

At the top here,

you will see this collections button.

We are going to go into my playlist.

You can see the webpage here,

and the article is there.

You can enhance this article in a handful of ways.

There is so many accessibility features on Capti.

One of my favorite that I think is often the most time-intensive to manipulate,

especially online is the visual stuff.

A lot of students have cortical visual impairments,

a lot of students need limited text on a page and you are

able to do all of that on the Capti software,

and make it bigger, have overlays.

It's really just amazing all the things that this software can do.

I am going to go ahead and show you guys how to make an assignment.

You can see around the side here,

we have our article and we have all of our students here.

The really cool thing is there is a nice list of accommodations,

and all of these students have their own default accommodation.

So you don't have to go in and reassign accommodations

for students during each assignment.

I can turn this on for Andre as an exception.

If I need to change it,

I can do that really easily within the assignment.

You can turn it on and off, no problem.

But the nice thing is, each student has their own versions.

As you can see here, this student is not really utilizing anything on the default mode,

but if we want to change his default settings, we can just do that.

Its nice if they all have their own little individual profiles of

the accommodations that they use that are compliant with their IEPs individually,

but they're not fixed.

It's really easy to swap them out and change them as needed depending on the

assignment.

You might have certain accommodations that you use for

testing and different accommodations that you use for regular everyday assignments.

I'm going to go head over,

I'm going to sign out of my teacher version real quick,

and I'm going to show you what it looks like on the student-facing side of things here,

because the really awesome thing about Capti

is [NOISE] how simple it is for the kids to view.

I'm not sure why it's not letting me go into the student side here,

but we do have a solution for that.

I'm going to go to captivoice.com where I just was.

I can go back there, and then I'll show you the student side on the demo version,

which you all can try this out.

If you just go to the Capti website and try the demo,

it'll have you put in your information.

[NOISE] I'm going to put in mine.

[NOISE] Super easy.

I'm going to go to the demo and I'm going to view it as a student so you guys can

see how nice and clean the student-facing side is.

I am sure that some of you guys have students who are like,

"Well Miss, I don't know how to get to that page."

There's one page here.

It's really easy, you can spotlight certain assignments that are top priority,

and then everything else is just below it and there's

not a bunch of different clicks to navigate.

So they have one page where all their assignments are nice and consolidated.

Then you can pull in assignments from Schoology.

You can pull in assignments from Google Classroom,

and they are all compatible with the Capti system.

So it's not like you're reinventing anything to add these accommodations,

you just upload it from wherever you're currently working and add it to Capti and then

your kid has everything in one place accommodated for their individual needs.

[NOISE] I'm going to go ahead,

I don't see any questions in the chat or anything.

Does anybody have any questions so far about the Capti software?

Jean or Rita, is there anything, any questions yet?

I just want to make sure I'm not missing anything.

>> No, I think you're good,

but this is an interactive session,

we want people to make sure to ask their questions via the chat and so we should pause.

Do any of you have anything specifically you'd like to ask Jessica?

Okay, so Jessica, I think you can keep going.

>> I'm going to keep going then. I'm going to log back into my side of

things and show you guys the amazing feature of data collection.

Capti works with ETS software.

They have a really comprehensive reading assessment tool built

in that I have found really useful for IEP re-evaluations,

which are not the easiest thing to navigate in the time of COVID.

[NOISE] I just want to show you guys what that looks like,

so give me one more second here to log back

in and I can pull up the beautiful data that it creates.

I showed you guys the little sidebar here and how we get to assignment,

so we can assign them to individual students and do their accommodations,

but we can also go down to the bottom here and look at reports.

After the students have taken the reading assessment,

you can see their diagnostic scores not in here.

The really [LAUGHTER] amazing part is that it puts it into

percentiles and it gives you a very comprehensive report.

Another nice feature is that you can have [NOISE] students

retake individual sub-tests and it'll update their progress,

so a nice little progress monitoring tool for IEP data.

Then once you have the test complete,

the students are done, you can go in and it gives you

recommendations for where to start instruction.

You can see, Dominik here is at 22nd percentile

and they give some suggestions about what Dominik should

be getting in his Decoding Instruction,

in his Vocabulary Instruction, in his Morphology,

Sentence Processing, Reading Efficiency, Reading Comprehension.

It's very, very thorough report.

You can print it, you can give it to parents.

It's a really nice way to track data over time.

So that is the Reading Assessment Tool that is extremely helpful.

Again, it's just nice because you're not having to

navigate through a million different platforms to get all the data you need.

Everything is right here.

It's all very simplified.

It's very easy to digest, easy to comprehend.

There's the lovely color-coding system here between the tiers,

which just makes splitting students up into different groups very easily.

There's also a grouping feature,

so if you go through your reports and you're like, "Well,

I need to mix these up because this student is just

not with all the kids that he needs to be with right now."

Specify number of groups,

I'm going to put three groups,

and all my kids are split into groups and I can do a tier one,

tier two, tier three group.

Probably not best practice,

but really amazing features in here.

This just starts to skin the surface.

[BACKGROUND] I'd love to answer any questions you guys

have about [BACKGROUND] this demo here.

If there's anybody who has anything that they want to ask?

[BACKGROUND] Oh, there is some chats coming in here.

[BACKGROUND] Looks like you guys have got those answered.

[NOISE] Jean, is there anything else I should add on here?

I think we went through the basics, but. [BACKGROUND]

>> I think that pretty much covers it,

there's has a lot more we can show of Capti,

but that would take an hour.

>> Yeah, I could go on for a really long time and I'm trying to keep you all awake here.

[LAUGHTER]

[BACKGROUND] Thank you. [BACKGROUND]

>> Great. Well, we do want to thank our sponsors

again because you are getting continuing education credit for this event today.

Thank you to Google for Ed and

Capti with the contact information at the bottom for making this available.

Do you want go to the next slide?

>> I can pick it up from here.

>> Okay.

>> Reading helps students learn to see the world through different lenses.

Unfortunately, many students struggle with

reading due to physical and or learning disabilities.

This is why it's critical to get them

the tools that will level the playing field for them.

The tools that will help them participate being dependent and grow,

and that's whole purpose of Capti.

Jessica has already given a marvelous review of

Capti-Accommodate which I as an all-in-one reading support tool.

It's a popular tool for accommodating ELs and

special education students and addressing IEP compliance.

You can just give Capti to your students and they'll use it independently.

Or you can use it for instructional purposes and create

assignments and share materials with your students.

You can deliver accessible reading materials.

You can OCR them,

make them digital accessible.

Have students do writing assignments,

administer secure quizzes and tests, lock-down browser,

customize the way texts look like in this picture you see open dyslexic font,

high-contrast, and so on.

Students can use text-to-speech, visual modifications,

translations, annotations, and soon will be able to use dictation tool.

There's more to Capti as Jessica mentioned,

there's an ETS diagnostic reading assessment in Capti-Assess.

It's powered by ETS and it can help evaluate reading in grades three through 12,

and yes, you can assess even high school students.

You can administer the assessment remotely or in person.

It's very easy and fast to set up.

You can screen your students.

You can use it as diagnostic to focus your intervention.

You can create the student profile

of foundation reading skills and monitor their progress.

What's really cool is that you don't have to administer the entire battery every time.

You can just pick and choose which skills you want to assess.

It's very also sensitive and fast to administer.

I also want to announce Capti-Advance,

which is a cutting edge innovation that's coming out in a few months.

It will help you boost your students foundational reading skills,

with time-tested reading exercises.

It's really unique in that it can automatically

create exercises from any text that you hold them to Capti.

It can be required reading or something you think students will really enjoy reading.

If you want to be considered for a free pilot of Capti-Advance,

you may be among the first sides to pilot this innovative intervention.

But if you purchase Capti-Assess or Capti-Accommodate,

you automatically get free access to Capti-Advance.

As you can see, Capti has a lot to offer to everyone.

It helps students become independent readers by making texts

more accessible and improving their reading fluency and comprehension.

It helps teachers be more effective and remote and hybrid settings.

You can make assignments remotely,

monitor student activity with a single tool instead of juggling multiple tools.

Capti also helps administrators address compliance and get reliable actionable data.

Of course, you have an ease of mind with implementation or

Capti products are well integrated with

your favorite LMS and SIS systems, Google Classroom.

If you have students with qualified disabilities,

they have direct access to millions of books at Bookshare, right in Capti.

I also promised to show how it works with Google Classroom and Schoology.

You can just create an assignment in Capti,

share it to Google Classroom,

select the classroom you want to post it to,

and students will see the assignments right in Google Classroom.

They can use Google single sign-on to access it.

With Schoology, it's even better.

You can open Capti right inside Schoology and access all of its features.

You as a teacher can create Capti assignments in schools,

by selecting add materials.

At Capti, picking the assignment you want to give like reading diagnostic assessment,

and choose which skills to administer,

and students will see it right in their class inside Schoology.

Coming soon to Capti.

Very happy to announce that we'll have speech to text.

Also, teacher-created voiceover, so we'll be able

to use it in parallel with text-to-speech.

Just create your own voiceover so students can listen to

a narrated math or whatever you want them to listen to in your voice.

It will add pauses to texts.

It pauses, for example,

during the test after each question.

You'll have interactive worksheets on quizzing capability tool.

Capti has been very well recognized.

Has been created thanks to awards from

Department of Education, National Science Foundation,

and others and it received numerous prestigious awards,

including one from FCC.

[NOISE] It's used in multiple districts around the United States.

Most importantly, teachers are raving about what it helps them do.

This one says, students who read the beginning of

the first-grade level is able to read on-grade level book,

fifth grade by using Capti.

He's excited about listening to the book and motivated to do so.

Another teacher from Cherry Creek School District in Colorado said,

it has freed up her para's so that her kids can be independent.

There's a whole case study that you can see showing

how your kids improved in their grade level after using Capti.

To wrap up, I hope that you will use this opportunity to join us.

I kept you super affordable as it is,

but we do have a special offer for you today.

If you mention, Closing the Gap 21,

you will get a deep discount for the rest of the school year.

If you purchase for the next school year,

you'll get the rest of this year for free.

Please request information or a personalized demo of Capti.

Just remember this offer is valid through the end of December. That is all from me.

We can take questions.

If you want to see some specific features,

we can also show you some additional demonstration.

>> Any questions for Dr. Borodin about his research?

Any practical questions from Jessica in the classroom?

Any questions to me about anything?

Great. All right.

Then we'll stay on for a few more minutes.

Thank you, Lynn, for wishing us all well,

happy holidays to everyone.