Wyoming Embedded Speech-to-Text Overview

Speech-to-Text Overview

Speech-to-text (STT) technology transcribes a student's spoken words into text for item responses in TDS. Students with the appropriate accommodations may use STT assistive technology while taking tests. These embedded tools can be tracked by WY-TOPP when gathering data about students' tool use. Students using speech-to-text technology will need to use a headset while testing. Any wired headset with a 3.5 mm or USB connection should be compatible.

Embedded vs. Non-Embedded Speech-to-Text Options

WY-TOPP assessments allow for both embedded and non-embedded STT options. The following table breaks down the differences between these two options (*See Table 1*).

Table 1: Embedded vs. Non-Embedded STT Options

Assistive Technology Option	Description	Device Type Required
Embedded STT Tools	Built-in test tools in TDS that can be accessed *without* a third-party software or hardware and do not require Permissive Mode* to be turned on in TDS.	Embedded test tools are available on both desktop and mobile devices.
Non-Embedded STT Tools	Test tools that require third-party hardware and accessibility software to help students complete their tests in TDS and require Permissive Mode to be turned on in TDS and may require additional configuration steps prior to testing.	Because most mobile devices do not support Permissive Mode, most non-embedded STT tools are supported by Windows and macOS desktops only.

*Permissive Mode is a TDS accommodation that allows students to use non-embedded assistive technology to complete tests in the Secure Browser. For more information on how turn on in TDS and use, see pages 2-3 of the WY Assistive Technology Manual.

Embedded Speech-to-Text Tool in TDS Overview

Speech-to-text (STT) allows a student to speak into a headset and have their speech converted into text that becomes the response that is entered into the Test Delivery System. The Test Delivery System (TDS) now offers an embedded Speech-to-Text (STT) solution. This embedded tool is supported on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS/iPadOS, and Chrome OS. Third-party (non-embedded) STT solutions are also still supported, but the embedded tool should be used whenever possible.

How to Use the Embedded Speech-to-Text Tool in TDS

Students with the appropriate accommodations may use the STT tool when responding to text response items. The STT tool allows a student to dictate responses to items that support the use of STT and the student's spoken words are then transcribed as text in the item response areas.
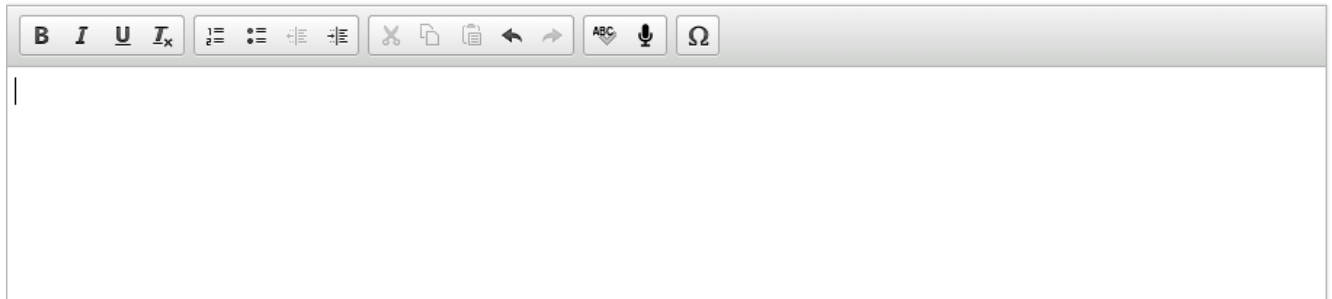
To begin dictating, the student selects the microphone button that's displayed in the item's text response area (*See Figure 2*). The button scrolls along with the page and remains visible while the item is in focus.

As the student speaks, the words are transcribed into the text response area. There may be a slight delay while the text is being transcribed and dots appear in the text response area to indicate that the transcription is in process.
The student can stop the dictation by re-selecting the microphone button. If the student selects the microphone button again and starts dictating, the new text is appended to the previously transcribed text.

Students can dictate for five minutes at a time. Depending on the tool settings, the entered text may be auto-punctuated. The student can also control the punctuation and grammar of the text through speech commands to some extent. For example, the student can say, "New Paragraph" to create a new paragraph. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to ensure the accuracy of the transcription as well as grammar and punctuation.

The buttons in the formatting toolbar are disabled while dictation is on. The buttons are enabled once you stop the recording. You also cannot navigate away from the test page while dictation is on.

How to Activate Speech-to-Text Tool in TIDE
In order to activate the embedded Speech-to-Text (STT) tool for a student, please follow the steps below. For more detailed information, please consult the TIDE User Guide.

1. Log into your TIDE account.
2. From the **Test Settings and Tools** task menu on the TIDE dashboard, select **View/Edit/Export Test Settings and Tools**. The *View/Edit/Export Test Settings and Tools* page appears.
3. Retrieve the student accounts whose settings and tools you want to view or edit by filling out the **Search Students** page and selecting **Search**.
4. A dialogue box will appear once the search is completed, and then select **View Results**.

5. This will take you to a list of student names. Please select the **Edit** button for the student you wish to activate the embedded STT tool.
6. Expand the **Literacy Assistance Tools** section, which includes the Speech-to-Text tool. Select **On** (*See Figure 1*).

Figure 1: Activating the STT Tool for a Student

7. Select **Save** to save the accommodation updates for this student.

Further Information

Once the embedded STT tool has been activated for Wyoming assessments, further information regarding using the embedded STT tool will be provided in both the Wyoming Assistive Technology Manual and the Test Administrator User Guide.