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February 14, 2023

TEPS Committee:

Please accept my sincerest gratitude for funding my trip to the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) conference in Orlando, Florida this February. I was thrilled to act as a representative of our school district in this celebration of inclusive learning, sharing and collaboration.

In my two days at the conference I attended 11 sessions and spoke with a variety of vendors who showcased products and services. I was able to work in groups with teachers, therapists, parents, persons with disabilities and experts in Assistive Technology. It was enriching to learn different points of view, new technology, tools and tips, all with the common goal of providing those with disabilities an opportunity to access education independently and respectfully.

As the Middle School moves toward a more inclusive environment, I was eager to gain knowledge on how to best support my students who have many intellectual, physical and social disabilities, in the general education setting. The sessions I attended proved insightful as well as empowering. I feel confident in accessing both high and low technology to assist my students, as well as making recommendations to my special education and general education peers. My goal as a self-contained teacher has always been to build confidence in my students as they learn to independently navigate their lives at school. With these tools, I believe each of my students will be successful in this goal. Thank you again for this opportunity to provide my students with opportunities.

Respectfully,

Laura Kopf
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