ReadSpeaker
pioneering voice technology

Blackboard Ally and Readspeaker for the LMS

TWO COMPLEMENTARY TOOLS: 'WHERE BLACKBOARD ALLY STOPS, READSPEAKER STARTS'

Blackboard Ally and ReadSpeaker tools work in tandem to make content accessible. Educators use Blackboard Ally to prepare and produce files in an accessible format. These documents are then perfectly adapted to the ReadSpeaker Suite of Learning Tools, which provides speech-enabled reading, writing and studying.

Accessibility initiatives start with BLACKBOARD ALLY and end with READSPEAKER tools.

How do ReadSpeaker and Blackboard Ally complement each other?

Blackboard Ally	ReadSpeaker for the LMS
Mainly used by **educators** to locate accessibility issues in course content and provide alternative formats.	Mainly used by **students—including those** with learning and cognitive disorders, language challenges, or vision impairments, as well as those who simply prefer audio learning—to speech-enable course content.
Alerts **content creators** to potential accessibility improvements.	Provides accessibility tools directly to **learners.**
Generates alternative print formats: • ePub • Tagged PDF • Electronic braille • Audio (Download only) • Immersive Reader • OCR PDF • Semantic HTML • BeeLine Reader • Translations	**Provides instant audio for all written content, including:** • LMS integrations, enabling TTS for all content with a Listen button • Offline content via the speakUp Windows application • Synchronized highlighting and speech, in or out of the LMS • TTS with OCR to accurately speech-enable documents • Live translation for dozens of languages • Additional reading/writing tools

Blackboard Ally	ReadSpeaker for the LMS
	Instant speech for all content goes beyond alternative print formats to make text more accessible for students with dyslexia, cognitive issues, reading challenges, a preference for bimodal presentation, or the need to study on the go.
Improves conformance with WCAG 2.2 and **supports Universal Design for Learning** (UDL).	**Improves conformance** with WCAG 2.2 and **supports Universal Design for Learning** (UDL).
Provides ONLY text-to-speech (TTS) audio via mp3 download **outside the learning management system** (LMS).	**Instant, LMS-native access to real-time** TTS by simply pressing the Listen button. Also offers **bimodal presentation,** including simultaneous speech and highlighting, plus mp3 download **inside the LMS.**
Currently compatible with **these learning management systems:** • Blackboard Learn • Canvas • Self-Hosted Moodle • Open LMS • D2L Brightspace • Schoology	Compatible with **all major learning management system, proctoring software** and cloud-based education platforms, including: • Blackboard Learn • Canvas • Moodle LMS • Moodle Workplace • Open LMS • D2L Brightspace • Schoology • itsLearning • SoftChalk • Learnosity • Open edX • Cirrus • New Spring • Learnosity • Ans • Honorlock • Proctorio • Respondus • And more!
50 languages	**50+** languages, **200+ voices**

Blackboard Ally	ReadSpeaker for the LMS
Limited text customization options	**Provides enlarged and customizable text options as well as accessibility tools:** • Enlarge Text • Read on Hover • Text Mode • Page Mask • Reading Ruler • Full Document or Text Selected Reading • Custom Dictionaries • Translations • Dictionary • Dictation • Proof-listening • OCR Text in Images • Downloadable Note Highlights • Borders for Color Blind Readers • And More
Optical character recognition (OCR) **for PDF files only.**	Image-to-text feature uses OCR to improve accessibility—and enable TTS—**for PDFs as well as these file formats:** • .tif • .png • .gif • .jpeg
Provides **alternative formats for these content types** only: • .pdf • .docx • .pptx • OpenOffice/LibreOffice • .html • Content created in Blackboard, Canvas, Brightspace, and Schoology only	Provides **instant read-alouds with synchronized highlighting for course documents in many formats:** • .docx • .html • .pdf • .xlsx • .pptx • .txt, • OpenOffice/LibreOffice • Content created in any LMS

Blackboard Ally	ReadSpeaker for the LMS
Processes **instructional content only,** NOT student-generated content.	Provides TTS and reading/writing tools for **all LMS content,** including student submissions.
Only processes **uploaded documents.**	Reads **cloud-based documents** (such as Google Docs and Microsoft Word Online).
Can only be used by **instructors** with course-editing permissions.	Provides **students** with the ability to organize, highlight, and annotate research.
Primarily serves **learners with disabilities.**	Adds usability and different ways of learning for **every student** (including those learning a second language and language learners).

ReadSpeaker TTS Solutions for Any LMS

The ReadSpeaker Suite of Learning Tools aids students with reading, writing, and study skills.

The multiplatform suite allows for flexible ways to meet the needs of a diverse population of individual learners, giving all students an equal opportunity to learn and succeed.

With cloud-based, dynamically produced speech, course content is instantly speech-enabled as soon as it is uploaded. State-of-the-art TTS technology provides lifelike AI voices, streaming in real time through the LMS.

Blackboard Ally and ReadSpeaker together help educational institutions make materials accessible and provide a UDL experience for every learner. **Blackboard Ally provides the formatting options to make written content accessible. Next, ReadSpeaker makes the text audible, provides necessary focus tools, further extends accessibility, and creates a better experience for every learner.**

Blackboard Ally and ReadSpeaker together make courses accessible to ALL students.