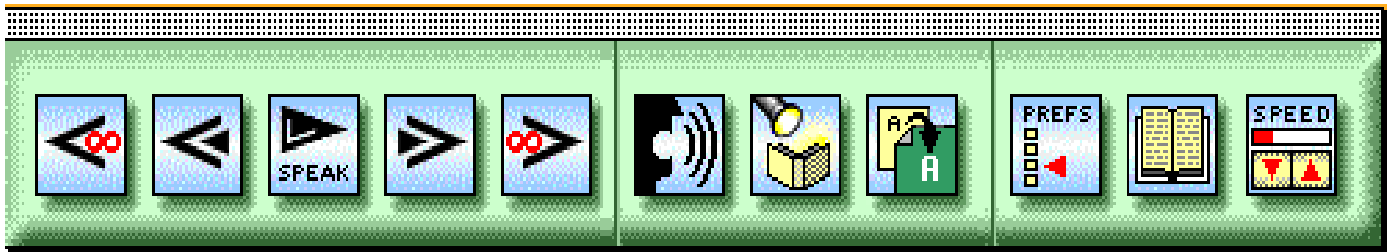


# CAST eReader is a text to speech software program.

It is a valuable tool for students with reading difficulties, visual impairments and dyslexia. It can be used as a "talking word processor." Its value lies in converting scanned text, using OCR software (optical character recognition), into speech. Depending on the OCR software used, scanned text can be saved as ASCII, AppleWorks or Text and "dropped" or copy/paste into CAST eReader. Although OCR software has improved, some formatting and editing is necessary before students' use.



Below is an explanation of the toolbar:

**Auto Step Back** - jump back, review a chunk of text and continue reading ahead

**Step Back** - step back to the beginning of the last chunk or sentence and stop

**Speak** - reads word/s that eReader highlights or that you manually highlight

**Step Ahead** - reads a chunk of text and stops

**Auto Read** - allows you to begin reading continuously

**Voice on/off** - turns the eReader voice off and on. The mouth open is voice on.

**Read/Highlight Mode** - sets the increments eReader speaks and highlights the text. (Chunk mode for reading is most like natural voice.)

**Apply New eReader Doc Preferences** - applies new eReader Doc Preferences to the currently open document.

**Prefs** - allows you to change voice, general, new Doc, web browser preferences and to access Exceptions Dictionary.

**Exceptions Dictionary** - used to refine the pronunciation of selected words.

**Speaking/Highlight Rate** - controls the speed of speaking and highlighting when voice is on, Highlight rate when Voice is turned off.

**Changing the Toolbar** - the toolbar can be hidden, using shortcut keys and pull down menus or the toolbar configuration can be changed in **Preferences**, select **General Preferences**.

*Myra Chang Thompson, Assistive Technology Specialist Lexington Public Schools 2002 - 2003*

