

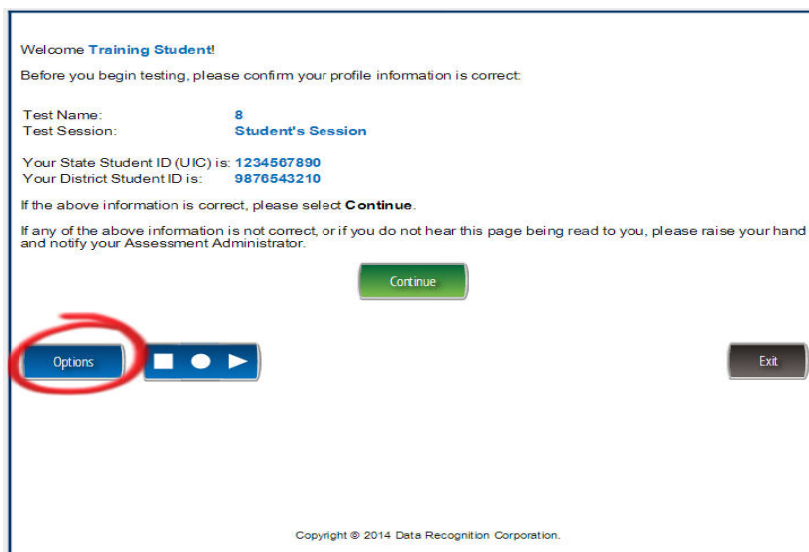
# TIPS ON TEXT TO SPEECH

## SPRING 2014 MI-ACCESS FI SOCIAL STUDIES ONLINE PILOT

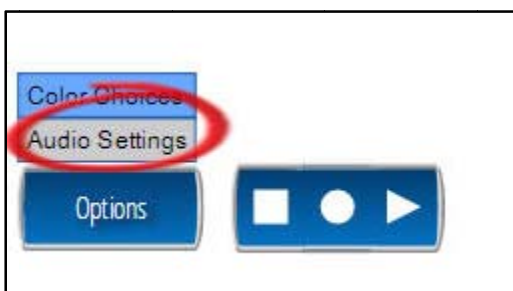
The MI-Access social studies pilot assessments are designed to be read aloud to students by the computer. Two audio formats are used: Human Voice Audio (HVA) and Text to Speech (TTS). The latter format uses a computer-generated voice as opposed to a recorded human voice. Only one of the audio formats—HVA—is used in Online Tools Training (OTT), where students can practice working in the test engine and answering sample questions. Therefore, since students will not have a chance to experience TTS prior to testing, we wanted to share some important information with you about that format.

### SPEED

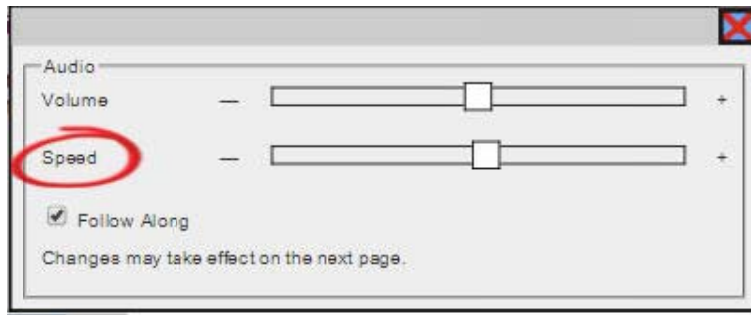
- The default speed for TTS is much faster than the speed for HVA. Therefore, Assessment Administrators (AAs) may want/need to adjust the TTS speed prior to testing.
- When AAs log a student in to the test, they can hear the TTS speed on the **Welcome Screen** and make adjustments before testing, using these directions.
  - Click **Options**.



- Click **Audio Settings**.



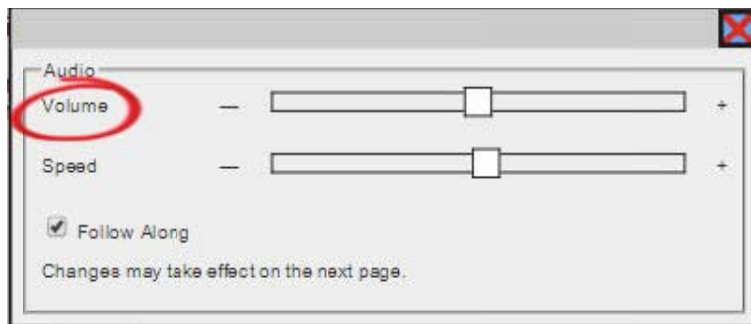
- Use the bars to adjust the speed, as needed.



- Although it is recommended that AAs make adjustments **prior** to student testing, the speed of TTS can be adjusted any time **during** testing if a student is having trouble.
- Please note that when the TTS speed is reduced, some words may be slightly distorted and there may be a slight echo. Unfortunately, there is no way to prevent such distortion.

## VOLUME

- AAs may adjust the volume of TTS, using similar directions.
  - Click **Options**, click **Audio Settings**, and use the bars to adjust the volume.

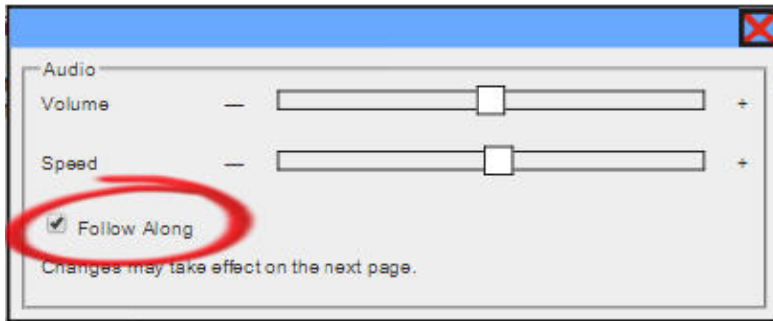


- Again, although it is recommended that AAs make adjustments **prior** to student testing, the volume of TTS can be adjusted any time **during** testing if a student is having trouble.

## FOLLOW-ALONG

- TTS has a follow-along feature (whereas HVA does not). The follow-along is not an exact match in terms of what is highlighted and what is said, but it should help students “see” about where the reader is within a given question or passage.
- If the follow-along feature distracts—rather than helps—a particular student, AAs can turn it off, using the following directions.

- Click **Options**, click **Audio Settings**, and “uncheck” the follow-along box.



- Although it is recommended that AAs make adjustments **prior** to student testing, the follow-along feature can be turned off any time **during** testing if a student is having trouble.