



## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND THE IEP: Resources for Families, Youth and School Districts After the IEP Meeting

After an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting where assistive technology has been discussed, there are several important steps you can take to ensure effective implementation and ongoing support for your child. Remember, the IEP is a dynamic document that can be adjusted as your child's needs evolve. Open communication with the school and ongoing collaboration with the IEP team are essential for ensuring the continued success of the assistive technology plan.

**TIPS**: Remember that each child's situation is unique, so tailor these tips to your child's specific needs and circumstances.

- **Review the IEP Document**: Carefully review the finalized IEP document. Ensure that it accurately reflects the decisions made during the meeting, including goals, objectives, and the specific assistive technology tools to be used.
- Communicate with Teachers and Staff: Reach out to your child's teachers and support staff to discuss the agreed-upon assistive technology plan. Clarify any questions they may have and ensure everyone is on the same page regarding implementation.
- **Schedule Training Sessions**: Work with the school to schedule training sessions for teachers and relevant staff, family and your child on the proper use and integration of assistive technology in the classroom.
- Establish a Communication Channel: Set up a regular communication channel with teachers and the IEP team to receive updates on your child's progress with assistive technology. This can help identify any challenges early on.
- Monitor Implementation: Regularly monitor how the assistive technology is being implemented in the classroom. If there are any issues or concerns, address them promptly with the relevant teachers or specialists.
- **Provide Feedback**: Share feedback on your child's experience with assistive technology. If adjustments are needed, communicate these to the IEP team to ensure ongoing success.
- Stay Informed About Progress: Stay informed about your child's progress in relation to the goals set in the IEP. Discuss with teachers how assistive technology is contributing to their academic and functional development.
- **Request Follow-Up Meetings**: Follow-up meetings should be scheduled to assess the effectiveness of the assistive technology plan. Discuss modifications or adjustments based on your child's evolving needs.
- Advocate for Additional Support: If you find that the initially agreed-upon assistive technology tools are not meeting your child's needs, advocate for additional support or explore alternative solutions.
- **Encourage Independence**: Encourage your child to use assistive technology independently when appropriate. Foster a sense of ownership and confidence in utilizing these tools to enhance their learning experience.
- **Stay Engaged and Informed**: Stay engaged in your child's educational journey. Attend school events, parent-teacher conferences, and stay informed about any updates or changes related to assistive technology.



## **Resources:**

- <u>Title: The What & Why of Inclusive Technology</u>: Why designing learning experiences using inclusive technologies is important, including the impact of implementation on all learners, CITES (Center on Inclusive Technology & Education Systems), 2023 video (Families and Professionals)
- <u>Title: Using Accessible Formats</u>: In order to be successful with using accessible formats, learners will need a number of supports, National Center on Accessible Educational Materials, website (Families Youth and Professionals)
- <u>Title: Teaching with Accessible Video</u>: Strategies for creating more active, minds-on engagement with instructional videos, National Center on Accessible Educational Materials, 2020 website (Families Youth and Professionals)
- <u>Assistive technology that's built into mobile devices</u>: Most mobile devices come with assistive technology (AT) that can help with reading, writing, and organization, Understood, 2023 (Families and Youth)
- <u>Title: WATI- AT Continuum</u> WATI (Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative), 2017 pdf (Families and Professionals)
  - List of categories in areas to assess for Assistive Technology consideration and to assist in IEP goals.
    - Mobility
    - Communication
    - Reading
    - Writing
    - Organization
    - Information Management
    - Time Management
    - Recreation & Leisure
- If you would like to view more fact sheets about how to support your child's assistive technology needs, see below:
  - Addressing Assistive Technology Before the IEP Meeting.
  - Addressing Assistive Technology During the IEP Meeting.
  - Addressing Assistive Technology Before, During and After the IEP Meeting
- Visit the Parent Center Hub for more resources and information about assistive technology.