



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

What is Assistive Technology:

- Assistive technology is a term for assistive, adaptive, and rehabilitative devices for people with disabilities who may have difficulty performing activities of daily living independently.
- The term AT service “means any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.”
- It includes: (A) evaluations, (B) purchasing, leasing, or otherwise acquiring AT devices; (C) selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, maintaining, repairing, or replacing AT devices; (D) coordinating and using other services with AT devices; (E) training for the individual, or, where appropriate, the family; and (F) training for those providing services to the individual. [Read the law here: 29 USC 3002\(3\).](#)

TIPS: Remember that each child's situation is unique, so tailor these tips to your child's specific needs and circumstances. Additionally, inquire about any school district or Child Study team resource or checklist that may be available to support the implementation of assistive technology

- **Research Assistive Technology (AT):** Familiarize yourself with available assistive technology options that might benefit your child. Understand how these tools can support their learning and address their specific needs.
- **Know Your Child's Needs:** Clearly understand your child's strengths and challenges related to their education. This will help you advocate for appropriate assistive technology solutions that cater to their unique requirements.
- **Communicate with Teachers and Therapists:** Regularly communicate with your child's teachers and therapists to gather insights into their progress and challenges. This information will be valuable in identifying the most effective assistive technology solutions.
- **Request a Technology Assessment:** If there hasn't been a recent technology assessment, request one during the meeting. This can help determine the specific assistive technology tools that align with your child's needs.
- **Review Assessment Reports:** If there have been recent assessments or evaluations, review the reports carefully. These assessments may highlight areas where assistive technology could be beneficial.
- **Clarify Goals and Objectives:** Clearly define your child's academic and functional goals. This will help guide discussions about the specific assistive technology tools that can support the achievement of these goals.



- **Collaborate with the IEP Team:** Work collaboratively with the IEP team, including teachers, special education professionals, and therapists. Share your insights, listen to their perspectives, and collectively determine the best assistive technology solutions for your child.
- **Ask Questions:** Don't hesitate to ask questions during the meeting. Seek clarification on any aspects related to assistive technology, its implementation, and its potential impact on your child's education.
- **Request Demonstrations:** If possible, request demonstrations of specific assistive technology tools. Seeing how these tools work can provide a better understanding of their potential benefits.

Resources:

- [Title: Assistive Technology \(AT\) Can Play an Important Role in Meeting the Needs of Students with Disabilities in School](#): Definition of AT devices and services including how it relates to IDEA, National AT Advocacy Project, 2011 pdf (Families)
- [Resources for Assistive Technology in the IEP](#): Examples of Assistive Technology tools for reading, writing, mathematics, organization and more, Adam Krass, MS, ATP, 2023 pdf (Families)
- [Get Started Families](#): Questions families can ask and actions they can take to contribute to inclusive technology and education systems, CITES (Center on Inclusive Technology & Education Systems), 2023 webpage (Families)
- [Assistive Technology for Special Education Students](#): Steps and the process before IEP meeting, Disability Rights Washington
- [Title: WATI- AT Continuum](#) - 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 During the IEP Meeting](#)
 - [Addressing Assistive Technology After 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.