

# NEVADA

## SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE PROJECT

A PROJECT OF THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

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#### **What are Assistive Technology (AT) Devices?**

Any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of a child with a disability. The term does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such a device.

Devices may be needed for:

- Seating/Positioning and Mobility – adapted chairs, wedges, prone standers, etc.
- Communication – low and/or high tech augmentative/alternative communication
- Computer Access – adapted mouse, switch access, touch screen, etc.
- Academics – reading guides, adapted pencils, book holder, electronic apps, etc.
- Recreation and Leisure – card holder, electrical interface, switch toys, etc.
- Vision – magnifiers, large key calculator, Braille writers, etc.
- Hearing – amplification, closed captioning, etc.
- Daily Living Skills – adapted items for eating, cooking, dressing, toileting, etc.

#### **What are Assistive Technology (AT) Services?**

Any service that directly assists a child with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. The services may include an assistive technology evaluation in the child’s customary environment. It may also include acquiring or purchasing a device and customizing the device for the child’s needs, as well as, coordinating the use of the device and providing training to the student, family and staff working with the child.

#### **What you should know:**

- The IEP team must “consider” a student’s need for assistive technology at least annually during the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting.
- Needs for assistive technology are documented in the student’s IEP.
- If the IEP team determines that AT devices are necessary to provide a free appropriate education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) for a student, it is documented in the IEP.
- A student may need more than one AT device depending on their educational needs.
- Involve the student in the discussion of assistive technology to the extent possible.
- Training on the use of any assistive technology needs to include the child, staff and service providers.
- AT devices that a student needs are provided at no cost to the family.
- AT devices can be taken home if the IEP team determines they are needed for FAPE.

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### TOP REASONS TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE PROJECT

Enhancing the capacity of school districts in Nevada to provide  
Assistive Technology devices and services for our Children

#### **Free and Cost Effective**

Try AT Before You Buy  
Assessment Assistance  
Training

#### **Collaborative Process**

Knowledgeable IEP Teams  
Working Toward Consensus  
State Support

#### **Outreach Program**

Resources  
Technical Assistance  
Training

#### **Builds Capacity**

In District – Local Team  
Mandates and Best practices  
Process Approach

#### **Educational Basis**

Student Center – Team Based  
Educational Needs  
Customary Environment

#### **Statewide Consistency**

National Trends and Resources  
Decision Making Process for AT  
AT Tools and Resources



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