



# Assistive Technology Services in Washoe County School District

## New Teacher FAQ



### What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

- Assistive Technology (AT) devices, whether no-tech or high-tech, assist students in completing tasks they might not otherwise be able to complete and access their education
  - Assistive technology device (IDEA, 2004): 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.
- Assistive Technology (AT) services are those that help students and teams select and utilize AT supports
  - Including but not limited to evaluation of need, purchasing, customizing, designing, repairing, maintaining, training, technical assistance (IDEA 2004)
- Assistive Technology devices and services are provided when necessary for a child to receive a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) and access the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

### Who is it for?

- AT must be considered for every student with an IEP

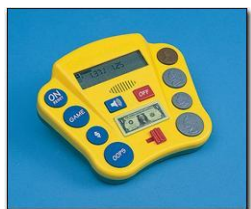
When considering AT, **the IEP Team** must assess "the student's functional capabilities and whether they may be increased, maintained, or improved through the use of [AT] devices or services." [OSEP Policy Letter to J. Fisher, 23 IDELR 565 (12/4/95)]

- Focus of AT Service Provision
  - Remove barriers
  - Improve access to curriculum and educational materials
  - Help students reach goals

### What kinds of AT devices and materials are available for students?

The WCSD Assistive Technology Team provides a continuum of supports, equipment, and resources. For example:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy (reading, writing, spelling)</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Access to Educational Materials (AEM)/activities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer/technology access</li> <li>• Organization</li> <li>• Positive Behavior Supports</li> <li>• Resources for teachers</li> </ul> |
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## What will the AT team do for me?

- The AT Team assists IEP teams with AT consideration (decision making about AT), helps select materials, provides materials and devices, makes necessary purchases, coordinates with other services, and provides training/technical assistance and follow up.

- The AT team facilitates decision making using the SETT model:
  - Student (needs and skills, strengths and weaknesses, motivation)
  - Environment (where and with whom)
  - Task
  - Tool

*You don't need to know what's "out there". You just need to know what you want the student to do and decide whether you think technology might help!*



### Guiding Questions:

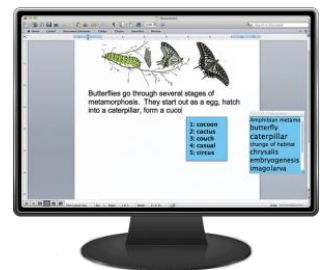
- What are the student's strengths? barriers?
- What do you want the student to do?
- Where/When/Why do they need to do it?
- What has already been tried?
- What skills, tools, resources, supports, do they need? (Such as AT)
  - Can the student's needs be met with commonly available tools or is something more required (UDL)?
- Who can support they student in the day to day use of AT?



- The AT team uses a Consult (Facilitation/Support) Model to assist school teams
  - School teams are the experts about their students
  - The AT team works with school teams to find solutions to problems students are having
  - The AT team seeks to build site capacity for AT decision making and use across the district

## How do I get AT?

- AT support for individual students:
  - Contact AT team for AT Student Intake form (referral)
  - Complete the form and return to AT with a copy of the IEP (additional information may be requested)
  - An AT Specialist will contact the school team to assist with areas of concern



- Technical Assistance for Self Contained programs

- Available for teachers of CLS, Early Childhood, Strategies, and SIP programs
- Training, resources, and some materials will be provided to use with all students
- Training also available for related service providers
- Target areas include: Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC), Positive Behavior Supports, tools for adapting the curriculum/inclusion supports, software, computer access for students, and organization.



I need help for many students in my special program



Steps to Success:



- Request for AT is initiated by the team who will implement the use of AT
- Focus is solving a problem
- Team agrees on need/plan
- Team members are willing to teach students use of AT in structured, meaningful, engaging opportunities
- Team will contact AT when there is a problem
- Team will be willing to provide feedback when asked

Contact:

AT Team

Reed HS portable 612

775 353-5700 ext. 33722

AT Support Staff:

Sue Howe [sjhowe@washoeschools.net](mailto:sjhowe@washoeschools.net) (contact for intake process and forms)

April Rucker [arucker@washoeschools.net](mailto:arucker@washoeschools.net)

AT Specialists:

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