Assistive Technology Resources for Educators

Over 200,000 students with disabilities in New Jersey receive special education services from local school districts or charter schools. Many of these students require assistive technology (AT) devices and services to learn, read, research, or communicate.

There is a wide range of AT solutions that can help students with disabilities succeed in classroom settings. This bulletin lists resources that can help classroom teachers, special education aides, and administrators in learning more about available AT devices and services so that they can assist students in finding the appropriate AT that helps them become more successful learners.

How to Find Assistive Technology Devices

AssistiveTech.net is the national public website on assistive technology. AssistiveTech.net is a comprehensive listing of over 22,000 different AT devices, ranging from walkers and wheelchairs for students with mobility impairments to computer switches for students with cognitive impairments. AssistiveTech.net allows users to search AT devices through keywords, categories, types of activities, and vendors. The extensive database provides information about what each individual device does as well as pricing and vendor contacts. Information in the AssistiveTech.net database.

AbleData is another resource that provides an extensive listing of AT devices. AbleData also provides fact sheets on different AT categories and listings of resources and conferences about AT.

How to Find Assistive Technology Services

ATAC, through its network of contractors, provides access to device reutilization, device demonstration, and device loan services:

- **Device reutilization services** provides individuals with disabilities with used and refurbished AT devices at low or no cost. For more information, visit the Goodwill Home Medical.
- **Device demonstration services** provide a means for individuals with disabilities to sit down with an AT specialist and try different types of AT devices
- **Device loan services** allow people with disabilities to borrow an AT device from a lending library for trial or as an accommodation.

Learning About Assistive Technology

The [Center on Technology and Disability](#) provides a series of resources and libraries about assistive technology designed to help teachers and parents understand basic AT concepts.

The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY) has a variety of resources that can assist parents and teachers. NICHCY has disseminated a [checklist](#), developed by the Nebraska Department of Education, on including AT in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process.

[Closing the Gap](#) offers a variety of resources for educators on assistive technology issues, including webinars, publications, and an extensive resource directory. The annual Closing the Gap conference in Minnesota is one of the largest assistive technology conferences in America.

The SETT Framework

The SETT Framework is a four-part model for educators and administrators to evaluate the assistive technology needs of a given student in the IEP process. SETT stands for:

- **Student** – the needs of the individual student
- **Environment** – the environment where the student learns, whether that environment is a regular classroom or not
- **Tasks** – the various tasks that a student is expected to do in their environment, which vary by grade level and student ability
- **Tools** – the different tools that are available to help the student, which can include assistive technology

The SETT Framework requires educators and administrators to gather information about all four areas before making a decision about how a student can benefit from AT devices and services. For more information about the SETT Framework, visit the following helpful websites:

- [LD Online](#)
- [at4sped11](#)
- [Joy Smiley Zabala, Ed.d.](#)
- [The SETT Framework for AT Tool Selection](#)

Other Resources

The Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology (DO-IT) program at the University of Washington has videos, guidelines, and resources on making technology and education more accessible for students with disabilities. Visit the [DO-IT page](#).

LDOnline.org provides articles, multimedia, columns, and a comprehensive resource guide on students with learning disabilities and attention-deficit hyperactive disorder, including information about technology issues.

[Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST)](#) is a nonprofit research and development organization that works to expand learning opportunities for all individuals through Universal Design for Learning.

[Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative](#) maintains a detailed resource guide for assistive technology accommodations for students with disabilities, including specialized information regarding students who are deaf or hard of hearing, children who are blind, and recreational opportunities for children with disabilities.

[Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA)](#) maintains an extensive resource list about a variety of assistive technology topics. RESNA also provides certification for assistive technology professionals and a variety of continuing education courses.

[Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center](#) at Gallaudet University provides information about teaching students who are deaf or hard of hearing, including technology solutions.

[PACER Center](#) works to expand opportunities and enhance the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities and their families. PACER has an extensive list of archived webinars on a variety of technology issues.

[Alliance for Technology Access](#) is a network of technology resource centers, community-based organizations, agencies, individuals, and companies that help encourage the use of technology by children with disabilities.

Selected Vendors

- [AbleNet](#)
- [Access to Recreation, Inc.](#)
- [Don Johnston](#)
- [EnableMart](#)
- [Enabling Devices](#)
- [Flaghouse](#)
- [RJ Cooper & Associates](#)
- [School Specialty](#)