

Understanding Assistive Technology

Alison Parker
Assistive Technology
Thomas County Schools



What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive technology device (IDEA § Section 300.5)

- 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 children with disabilities.

Assistive technology service (IDEA § Section 300.6)

- Any service that directly assists a child with a disability with the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.

When do we consider AT?

Every Student, Every Meeting

Assistive technology must be considered at every annual IEP meeting, regardless of the type or severity of the student's disability.

How Can AT Help?

Access Educational Materials

Access the Curriculum

Acquire Knowledge

Demonstrate Skills

Is it “Technology?”

AT is not just items typically considered technology.

There are three main levels of AT:

No Tech - pencil grips, highlighters, colored overlays, sensory objects, slantboards, visual timers, etc.

Low Tech - calculator, switches, amplifiers, alternate mouse or keyboards, etc.

High Tech - power mobility, AAC devices, iPads, Chromebooks, etc.

Where can I find more information?

- The Thomas County Special Education Manual has a section dedicated to Assistive Technology.
- Some helpful websites include:
 - www.gpat.org
 - www.atia.org
 - www.understood.org

The Thomas County Schools Assistive Technology Website can be accessed from the Thomas County Schools homepage by clicking
Departments>Exceptional Students> AT Website



Alison Parker
alparker@tcjackets.net
229-225-4380 ext. 127