

## What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA, 2004) and the *Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia*, an AT device is defined as:

*“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.”*

IDEA (1990, 1997 and 2004) also defines an AT service as:

*“any service that directly assists a child with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.”*

These broad definitions allow the Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams the flexibility to provide a range of AT devices and services from low to high tech to support student performance in academic and functional areas.

## Best Practice When Considering AT:

- The need for Assistive Technology is addressed by all the IEP team members.
- Start with low tech strategies, techniques, adaptations, modifications.
- Try a variety of different strategies and/or techniques with the student (e.g., a peer partner, an oral presentation instead of written presentation, etc.)
- Utilize a variety of adaptations and/or modifications (e.g., low tech items such as calculator, different types of paper, communication board, copy of peer notes, etc.)
- Assess the need for mid-tech devices (e.g., such as a digital voice recorder, a portable word processor, etc.)
- Assess the need for high-tech devices (i.e., higher cost, more complex device)

*The mission of the Lunenburg County Public Schools is to ensure that all students learn in an environment which nurtures the cooperative efforts of all school personnel, students, parents and community members. We are dedicated to enabling all students to become effective, productive, and contributing citizens in our competitive global society.*

For additional information about assistive technology, contact your child's case manager

or:

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# Lunenburg County Public Schools Assistive Technology Team



## Assistive technology can be low tech as well as high tech as seen in the examples provided.

### Reading

- Changes in text size, spacing, color, background
- Book adapted for page turning
- Use of pictures with text
- Talking device to speak unknown words
- Single word scanners
- Talking word processor with electronic text
- Electronic books

### Math

- Enlarged math worksheets
- Alternatives for explaining answers
- Money calculator
- Talking watches/clocks
- Talking calculator
- Calculator with large display
- On-screen/scanning calculator
- Math software

### Writing – Motor Aspects

- Variety of pencils and pens
- Pencil/pen adaptive grip
- Raised line paper
- Slant board
- Pre-written words/phrases
- Templates
- Portable word processor
- Computer with word processing
- Word prediction
- Voice recognition software
- Google Chrome Apps

### Writing – Composition

- Word cards, word wall
- Personalized dictionary
- Writing templates
- Spelling spell checker
- Talking word processor
- Word prediction
- Abbreviation/expansion
- Organizational software
- Google Chrome Apps

### Computer Access

- Keyboard with accessibility options
- Word prediction
- Abbreviation/expansion
- Keyguard
- Alternative mouse
- Alternative keyboard
- Switch with scanning
- Voice recognition software

### Learning/Studying/ Organization

- Print or picture schedule
- Color coding of materials
- Highlighted text
- Voice output reminders for tasks, tests, etc.
- Electronic organizers

### Communication (AAC)

- Low Tech Communication using pictures Systems
- Mid tech communication using devices with changeable communication boards
- High tech using tablets and other computer based technology

To learn more about assistive technology tools and services available to your students, please contact the Assistive Technology Team. IDEA requires that All students with an IEP require individualized needs for low to high tech assistive technology be considered annually.