

Assistive Technology

IDEA states that Assistive Technology is “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.” (Section 300.5)

Assistive Technology must be considered as part of any IEP. If any AT services or devices are deemed necessary for the student to actively participate in the school setting, they must be included in the IEP. AT can be low tech (highlighting tape for textbooks) to high tech (augmented communication devices). If the student does not need AT to fully participate in general education, it **must** be stated on the IEP.

AT can be documented in the IEP in AT section of the IEP. The need for AT can also be documented in several other places in the IEP:

- Present Levels
- Modifications
- Special Education and Related Services
- Goals and Benchmarks (as a means to attain the goal)
- Transition Services
- Meeting Summary

The AT section of the IEP should indicate:

- The specific need for AT
- Describes what the device or technique does

The wording in the IEP should avoid brand names.

Assistive Technology needs should be determined with a team or collaborative approach. Most interventions should be initiated and implemented by the student’s IEP team. Any team member who identifies a need can initiate the process.

MAR-NEM COOP Assistive Technology Team serves all four districts in the cooperative with AT needs. Their purpose is to provide support to the IEP team in the determination, acquisition, and utilization of technology to support the educational needs of students.

For more information and/or to make a referral to the AT team, contact Director at MAR-NEM COOP.