

Assistive Technology

The Division of Specialized Instruction and Student Support
(DSISS)

Rachael Sears, AT Director

Karen Gorman, Technology Solutions, Coordinator

Maricris Formoso-Santos, AT Coordinator

Lindsey Huntley, AT Evaluator

Jonathan Bronsky, AT Evaluator

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Agenda

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- III. Who We Are and how we support students
- IV. What is Assistive Technology (AT)?
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- VI. How can parents obtain an AT evaluation?
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Introductions

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Mission for Assistive and Instructional Technology

The DOE:

- Promotes understanding among school, field and central office staff regarding **effective use of instructional technology to support access** to the general education curriculum for all students.
- Works to ensure that **Committees on Special Education (CSE's) consider current assistive technologies** when determining the needs of a student and that assistive technology **mandates are provided on a complete and timely basis and consistently used and supported** to enable the student to achieve their academic goals.
- Provides **high quality** assistive technology assessment, training, resources, and implementation **support** to students, families, teachers, and other DOE staff in fulfilling this mission.

Who We Are: Center for Assistive Technology and Tech Solutions

The DOE's Assistive Technology mission is carried out by the Division's team of AT specialists: Together, the Center for Assistive Technology and Tech Solutions support all students in all districts.

- Students in preschool, charter, non-public, and community school (District 1-32) receive support from **Center for Assistive Technology (CAT)**, and students in D75 receive evaluations and support from **D75 Tech Solutions**.

What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

- Individual with Disability Education Act (IDEA) classifies assistive technology 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 functional capabilities of a person with a disability.” -<http://idea.ed.gov>

- Assistive technology is recommended when appropriate to enable a student to access his/her instructional program and meet his/her individual educational needs.
- All assistive technology devices or services a child requires are listed on his/her IEP.

Assistive Technology v. Instructional Technology

Assistive Technology

- Equipment used to improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities and help them to access their curriculum
- Student is unable to access curriculum through other means
- Listed on the student's IEP

Instructional Technology

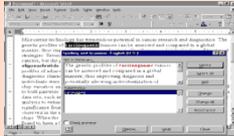
- Technology utilized as a resource for learning
- Student is able to access curriculum through other means

Assistive Technology v. Instructional Technology

Examples

- **Instructional** technology math app that allows a student to practice math skills v. an **assistive** technology math app (e.g. Panther Math paper app) that allows a student with motoric limitations to show what they know.
- **Instructional** technology app that allows a student to practice spelling v. an **assistive** technology app (e.g. Co:writer) that allows a student with specific reading delays to write with auditory feedback and fewer keystrokes.

Assistive Technology Helps Meet the Student's Individual Needs

Subject	Student Challenge	Possible AT Solutions	
Math	Difficulty computing, organizing, aligning and copying math problems onto paper.	Talking calculator, adapted graph paper, manipulatives, software	
Writing	Difficulty with the physical mechanics of writing or spelling, word usage, organization, etc.	Word processor, slant board, adapted keyboard /paper, computer, tablet, software	
Reading	Difficulty with decoding, reading fluency or comprehension.	Reading pane, highlighted text, digital books, computer/tablet, software	
Communication	Nonverbal or difficulty with intelligible speech	Communication book, speech generating device, picture communication system, voice output device	
Memory/Organization	Difficulty with planning, organizing, keeping track of their calendar/schedule/task list, etc.	Graphic organizers, software	
Listening	Difficulty processing and remembering spoken language	Digital recorder, FM unit	

Current AT Technology: Eyegaze Dynamic Speech Generating Device

Eyegaze Device

- Students can use eye gaze tracking and gaze interaction to control their assistive technology device and associated software
- Please visit our tech stations to see how D'Kayla, a second grade ICT student in public school uses her eyegaze device to access her school curriculum and to participate in classroom assignments with her general education peers.



<http://www.smartboxat.com/eyegaze/eye-gaze-in-the-classroom>

How can parents obtain an AT evaluation?

- **Community School Students (Districts 1-32):**

Referral to school-based CSE → Center for Assistive Technology

- **District 75 Students:**

Referral to school-based CSE → Tech Solutions

- **Preschool, Charter, and Non-Public School Students:**

Referral to district CSE → Center for Assistive Technology



The Evaluation Process

CSE submits AT evaluation referral to Central AT Specialists.

Student is evaluated. Student and teachers are trained on AT device, corresponding goals are developed and strategies are implemented.

Evaluation may include a student trial. Student performance is reviewed and IEP goals are refined.

Where IEP Team determines it is appropriate, Assistive Technology is added to student IEP.

Assistive technology device/service is provided to the student.

Stations and Case Studies

- Visit each station to learn about how students' individual needs were met with the use of AT.
- We will be looking at students using three types of AT:
 - Eyegaze Dynamic Speech Generating Device
 - iPad with Touchchat
 - Computer with Solo® Suite

Resources

- http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation/D75/info_resources/default.htm NYC DOE Information and Resources for Disability Learning
- www.2.ed.gov US Dept. of Education. My Child's Special Needs
- www.parentcenterhub.org Center for Parent Information and Resources
- www.nclld.org National Center for Learning Disabilities
- <http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation/programs/relatedServices/Assistive%2BTechnology.htm> NYC DOE Information and Resources for Center for Assistive Technology