

## What is an Assistive Technology Device?

"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 individuals with disabilities."

(IDEA, 20 U.S.C. 1401[25]).

## What are Assistive Technology Services?

An assistive technology service is "any service that directly assists a child with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device" (IDEA, 300.6).

## What are Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems?

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) systems are tools with verbal or visual output that allow individuals to interact through expressive and receptive communication across all environments.

## What are some frequently used assistive devices in classroom settings?

- Simple Communication boards and wallets.
- Complex computer generated communication devices
- Mobility Aids, modified walkers and powered wheelchairs.
- Various computer input methods such as touch screens, alternate keyboards, and speech recognition systems.
- Educational and learning software

## ACAT Services

With support from The California Endowment, the Assessment Center for Assistive Technology team will provide assessment and recommend assistive technology devices for students in Imperial County schools through the IEP process.

ACAT Services include:

- Lending Library of Assistive Technology Devices
- Community Outreach
- Trainings
- Assessments
- Transportation
- Case Management
- Advocacy Assistance
- Resource Center

## Assessment and Recommendation

The ACAT Assessment team consists of experienced professionals in various areas of specialization including speech therapy, occupational therapy, adapted education, and special education teachers. Every client will receive an assessment resulting in a recommendation that identifies the appropriate assistive technology, training and support that can meet the individual's needs. This assessment includes pricing and purchasing information on the recommended equipment.

Examples of assistive technology recommendations:

- Augmentative Communication- voice output devices.
- Alternative Computer Access—specialized input devices for user interaction.
- Devices for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing- devices designed to enhance communication for the hard of hearing person.
- Low Vision & Blindness Technology—screen readers, screen enlargement software, etc.
- ECU, EADL's—electronic aids for daily living needs.
- Ergonomics—equipment and services to help optimize learning and prevent deformity.

## Training and Support

- ACAT's individualized training is conducted by a knowledgeable ACAT professional.
- Makes use of the latest assistive technology devices, computers, software and equipment.
- Offers initial setup and training on devices recommended by ACAT.

## How Does the Process Work?

1. Referral packet is mailed to the referral source.
2. Once the referral packet is completed and received by ACAT, ACAT staff will call to schedule an appointment with the client.
3. ACAT staff will conduct the assessment and/or training at ACAT or in the clients natural setting and complete a comprehensive report with recommendations.
4. The overall assessment and training process length depends upon individual needs.

## Who Will Benefit From Assistive Technology?

- Spinal cord injury
- Cerebral Palsy
- Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment
- Hearing Impairment
- Developmental disability

## Areas for Assistive Technology Considerations

Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)

Communication

Educational

Computer Access

Control of the Environment

Hearing

Learning/Studying Aids

Math

Mobility

Fine/Gross Motor

Position and Seating

Reading Software

Recreation/Leisure

Vision

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The California Endowment is a private, statewide health foundation supporting the Imperial County Assessment Center for Assistive Technology to address multi-cultural health needs, access to health care and well-being.



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