[Knowbility’s Toolkit Tuesdays](https://knowbility.org/programs/k12-digital-accessibility)

AT Consideration

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# **AT in Schools: Definitions, Laws & Purpose**

* IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
  + Started as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act in 1975. Before the law very few students with disabilities were given access to education.
  + 1990 - its reauthorization changed the name to Disabilities Education Act or IDEA
  + 1997 - IDEA added five special factors that must be considered when developing a student’s IEP
  + 2004 - IDEA was aligned with No Child Left Behind and began raising standards for teachers and instruction
  + 2017 - Endrew F. V. Douglas County School District. Supreme court emphasized the requirement, “every child should have the chance to meet challenging objectives.”
* IEP-Individualized Education Program
  + IDEA requires an IEP for a student receiving special education services. An IEP is individualized for each student based on their needs to make progress toward their personalized goals.
  + Determination of eligibility [Statute/Regs Main](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/statuteregulations/) » [Regulations](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs) » [Part B](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b) » [Subpart D](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/d) » Section 300.306
  + When IEPs must be in effect [Statute/Regs Main](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/statuteregulations/) » [Regulations](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs) » [Part B](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b) » [Subpart D](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/d) » Section 300.323
* AT Services
  + Assistive technology service means any service that directly assists a child with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.
    - The determination of Assistive Technology needs, evaluation
    - Providing assistive technology devices
    - Maintaining assistive technology devices
    - Working with campus teams to determine AT needs of student
    - Training student, staff and parents
  + Assistive Technology Service [Statute/Regs Main](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/statuteregulations/) » [Regulations](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs) » [Part B](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b) » [Subpart A](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/a) » Section 300.6
* AT Devices
  + Assistive technology device means 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. The term does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such device.
  + Assistive Technology Device [Statute/Regs Main](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/statuteregulations/) » [Regulations](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs) » [Part B](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b) » [Subpart A](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/a) » Section 300.5
* Ensuring AT is Provided
  + AT services are provided if needed to ensure the student Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) regardless of placement and equipment needed.
  + If determined by IEP team, school/district purchased equipment can be used at home or other settings.
  + FAPE - Assistive Technology [Statute/Regs Main](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/statuteregulations/) » [Regulations](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs) » [Part B](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b) » [Subpart B](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/b) » Section 300.105
* AT Consideration
  + [(2)](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/d/300.324/a/2) Consideration of special factors. The IEP Team must— (v) consider whether the child needs assistive technology devices and services.
  + Development, Review and Revision of IEP [Statute/Regs Main](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/statuteregulations/) » [Regulations](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs) » [Part B](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b) » [Subpart D](https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/d) » Section 300.324

# **Why is AT and AT consideration so important?**

* IEPs are to help students with disabilities make annual gains in their educational journey
* IEP teams need to ask, “will the use of AT increase, maintain or improve a student’s functional capabilities and help them make progress in their goals?”
* Documenting the process

# **Why is it so difficult?**

* IDEA provides very little guidance
* Perceived lack of knowledge or ability
* Assumption of financial burden

# **Recommended Practices**

* IEPs are a team process, the entire team should be involved when considering assistive technology.
* Everyone needs to recognize their role and contributions
* There needs to be a process and staff need to understand how to complete that process

# **Tools & Resources**

* [GADoE Take a Minute](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19K-ajF0N4_AlEwUZoQHRWv7M_0bg7c_t/view?usp=sharing)
  + [Visual Description](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KuJXdQ8c6Skl12rKgiRkr_NEQ05DT9Aag8u80DpSOvY/edit?usp=sharing)
* [YISD AT Consideration “Placement”](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1brgoSl0ROicKv5Vij8aa1QFqfTrYOvex/view?usp=sharing)
  + [Visual Description](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RUF6Vx1V6ZC1fxo-GAcId_4h7yXU5aM1EpybOdSCeFs/edit?usp=sharing)
* SETT - Student Environment Task Tools
  + [ATAC SETT Resources](https://at4nj.org/sett-framework/)
* [WATI](http://www.wati.org/) - Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative
  + [Consideration Procedure](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_5kJXIX9CSVplBVKJX8u7CQ-UUq06Iph/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=116163267192908025678&rtpof=true&sd=true)
  + [Consideration Guide/Worksheet](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BNxd-hQXIgkVyX9iyQnalfOyMqQKIDyJ/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=116163267192908025678&rtpof=true&sd=true)
* [QIAT](https://qiat.org/) - Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology
  + [Indicator 1: Consideration of AT Needs](https://qiat.org/indicators/indicator-1-consideration-of-at-needs/)

# **Summary**

* IDEA recognizes the important role AT can play in a student’s ability to make progress and achieve academic success
* Every IEP is individualized and needs to include the consideration for AT
* AT consideration should be a process that teams understand and expect

# **ATSTAR & K12 Access Toolkit**

* ATSTAR - Assistive Technology Strategies Accommodations and Resources
  + Designed as a 8 Module course for all stakeholders to have a better understanding of assistive technology and how to gather the information needed to make effective recommendations.
  + Current version available, with updated materials coming soon!
* K12 Access Toolkit
  + Building from ATSTAR to include additional training modules, role based learning paths and resources.

# **Other Tools and Resources**

* <https://www.at3center.net/> - National Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance & Training Center
  + Has contact information for all State Tech Act Agencies, including information regarding device loans