



Assistive Technology Overview Quick Guide: COVID-19



General Guidance

Supporting a student’s functional need with assistive technology (AT) is often a critical component, which enables them to survive and thrive in all their educational environments. Below, you will find some thoughtful guidance to support you as you work through the assistive technology needs of your students, regardless of their location.

If you have questions or need to borrow assistive technology, please do not hesitate to contact Janice Carson janicec@uidaho.edu and/or Dan Dyer dyer@uidaho.edu from Idaho SESTA.

Padlet

<https://padlet.com/janicec2/vomrat4q6ebw>

Question	Considerations
<p>What is assistive technology?</p>	<p>Assistive technology device. Any item, piece of equipment, or product system whether acquired commercially, off a shelf, modified, or customized that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a student with a disability. This excludes surgically implanted medical devices.</p> <p>Assistive technology service. Any service that directly assists a student with a disability with the assessment, selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. The term includes the evaluation of the need of the student; purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of assistive technology devices; selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing, or replacing devices; coordinating and using other therapies, interventions, or services with existing education and rehabilitation plans and programs; training or technical assistance for a student and/or family; and training or technical assistance for professionals, employers or other individuals who provide services to, employ, or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of the student.</p> <p>Simply said, assistive technology is both a device and a service to support independence.</p> <p>AT Simply Said https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DB9pKkZoJDC</p>
<p>How do I know what to send home for my students who are learning virtually?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin with what AT is listed in the students’ IEPs to meet their functional needs. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Keep in mind, students need access to AT in all educational environments. b) Make sure your students are using the same type of assistive technology at home as they are in school. Changing the AT can cause stress, frustration, and lack of access to their curriculum. Please note, you will also need to provide training and support on the use of technology in a different setting. 2. Secondly, think through your student’s classroom routines and the support provided by the paraprofessionals. What adult supports are built into their day? Can they be done by technology? <p>For Example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is their grade-level curricular content or a test being read to them, so they understand it? If so, there is AT for that, which will support them in all their educational environments including the classroom. b) Do they need help with spelling when writing a paper? If so, there is AT for that, which can support them in all their educational environments including the classroom.



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<p>How do I train the parents on the technology?</p>	<p>Training Training and support for families on AT is considered a service. In order to support student learning and independence, it is critical to train families on how to use AT. You can work face-to-face with the family, on how to use the AT, or it can be done at a distance. Most of the time you can find quick video tutorials on YouTube or the manufactures websites have resources as well.</p> <p>iPad Accessibility iPad Reader (Reading support) iPad Predictive Text (Spelling support)</p> <p>Chromebook Accessibility Chromebook Speech-to-Text (Reading Support) Chromebook Word Prediction – This includes word prediction (Spelling Support) and voice-to-text</p> <p>Windows 10 Accessibility Windows 10 Reader (Reading Support) Windows 10 Word Prediction (Spelling Support)</p>
<p>What if they need help with troubleshooting? What does that look like?</p>	<p>Troubleshooting Troubleshooting with families and students can also be done at a distance via an online meeting format. In addition, there are many troubleshooting videos available online as well. If you continue to struggle, simply contact SESTA AT (Dan or Janice) and we will support your efforts!</p>
<p>How do I clean the devices?</p>	<p>Cleaning AT is always critical. There are many types of germs that can live on surfaces and we know specifically this is true for the coronavirus 2. It can live up to 24 hours on cardboard and 2-3 days on plastic and stainless steel. The CDC has guidelines to help clean surfaces and beyond that you should look for sanitation guidance from the manufacture of the device.</p> <p>CDC Guidelines CDC list of approved cleaners for use with COVID-19.</p> <p>CDC's Environmental and Cleaning Recommendations for Households Infected with COVID-19</p> <p>Manufacture Example Apple cleaning directions.</p>