Assistive Technology

Introduction

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Overview of Tonight's Presentation

- Introductions and Evolution of Assistive Technology in the Attleboro Public School System

- Basic Premise and Examples of Assistive Technology

- The APS Assistive Technology Process

- Exciting New Projects

- Questions & Answers

Basic Premise

- ALL learners must be provided with an educational program that will allow them ACCESS to the general curriculum.

- Assistive technology, when paired with universally designed curriculum, maximizes learning opportunities for all learners.

Benefits to Learners

- Supports independence, participations and productivity through the learning environment.

- Accommodates the unique learning styles of all students.

- Provides ACCESS to the curriculum.

Technical Definition of an Assistive Technology Device

- "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 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Definition of Assistive Technology 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.

Assistive Technology Services

- Evaluation of the needs of a child with a disability, including a functional evaluation

- Selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing, or replacing assistive technology devices

- Coordinating and using other therapies, interventions, or services with assistive technology devices, such as those associated with existing education and rehabilitation plans and programs

Assistive Technology Services

- Training or technical assistance for a learner and family

- Training or technical assistance for professionals (including individuals providing education or rehabilitation services), employers, or other individuals who provide services to, employ, or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of the individual with a disability.

Examples of Assistive Technology

Low Tech	High Tech
Note-taking cassette recorders	Optical character recognition
Pencil grips	Calculator
NCR paper/Copy machine	Word processors with spelling and grammar checking
Simple switches	Word recognition
Head pointers	Voice recognition
Picture boards	Speech synthesizers
Taped instructions	Augmentative communication devices

Resource Starting Point

http://udltechtoolkit.wikispaces.com/

SETT Framework

S for the Student

E for the Environment

T for the Tasks

T for the Tools needed for the student to address the tasks.

There are many ways to consider AT, but all professionals agree that the process of consideration should include:
- A team approach
- Consideration of a student's present level of performance
- Consideration of the specific tasks a student needs to accomplish