Devices That Can Help Students With Special Needs In School
(Better known as Assistive Technology)

What is assistive technology (AT)?

We all use technology such as phones, radios and computers to help us in daily life. Assistive technology is a little different. It helps students with disabilities to do something they could not do without technology. AT helps students achieve their academic goals in school. AT can be a device or a service.

What is an AT device?

An AT device is any piece of equipment that helps a student with a disability perform a task or function better in school. It can be a new piece of equipment or it can be something that was modified just for that student's individual needs. AT can be low tech, like a spoon with a built-up handle, or high tech, like a differently shaped computer keyboard.

What is an AT service?

An AT service is any service that helps a student with a disability find, select, obtain or use an AT device. This includes evaluating the student's needs in her regular environment. It means taking care of and repairing AT devices, too. It includes training parents and teachers about how to use the AT device.

How do you know if your child needs assistive technology?

When discussing your child's abilities (present levels of performance), there is a question about whether your child will need AT to implement her IEP. If the answer is "yes", the IEP team (you, your child's teachers, and other experts and advocates) should ask for an AT evaluation to see what devices and services would be useful. Students with 504 Plans may need AT,

What are some examples of the kinds of devices a student could use

Low-tech
- Post-it notes
- erasable highlighter
- colored paper
- colored overlays
- picture schedule
- special grips
- highlighter tape
- graphic organizer
- sentence strips
- communication board
- large print

Mid-tech
- calculator,
- AlphaSmart,
- talking dictionary
- IntelliKeys
- switches
- digital voice recorder
- tape recorder
- word scanner
- talking watch or clock
- Braille
- powered toy

High-tech
- desktop, notebook and handheld computers
- typing software
- Write Out Loud, Read and Write Gold or other literacy support software
- head or eye-gaze control of a computer
- scanner
- math software,
- electronic books
- voice output device
- amplification system
- hearing aids

For further information you may want to contact one of Kentucky's Assistive Technology Resource Centers.

Kentucky Assistive Technology Services (KATS) Coordinating Center (English, Español, Français, Deutschen, Italiano)
www.katsnet.org

Bluegrass Assistive Technology Center
409 Southland Drive
Lexington, KY 40503
(859) 294-4343
(800) 209-7767
www.bluegrass-tech.org

Enabling Technologies of Kentuckiana
Spalding University
845 South Third Street
Louisville, KY 40203
(502) 992-2448
(800) 896-8941 ext. 2648
www.spalding.edu/entech

Redwood Assistive Technology Center
71 Orphanage Road
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017
(859) 331-0880
(800) 728-9807
www.redwoodnky.org

Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Center
Wendell Foster Campus
815 Triplett Street
Owensboro, KY 42302
(270) 689-1738
(800) 209-6202
www.wkatc.org/

Appalachia Assistive Technology
Consortium (satellite resource centers)
Carl Perkins Rehab Center
659 Main Street
Thelma, KY 41260
(606) 789-1440, ext. 139
(800) 443-2187

Cumberland River Comp Care
1203 American Greetings Road
Corbin, KY 40702
(606) 528-7081

Call the Kentucky Protection and Advocacy office at 1-800-372-2988 for more help or visit our web pages at http://www.kypa.net.