

# Guide to AT and Requests for AT Items

## What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

Assistive Technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, software program, or product system—whether acquired commercially off-the-shelf, modified, or customized—that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of students with disabilities. The item is either on the IEP or facilitates an IEP Goal/Objective.

**Assistive Technology:** When a sensory, fidget, or teaching tool enables function, it is no longer just a strategy - it is assistive technology. ie: A specific weighted lap pad designated in a student's IEP recommended by the OT to help them stay seated.

**General Classroom/Instructional Supply:** ie: A set of fidgets for the whole class to use during a lesson, timer for the whole class.

**Note on Food:** While "food for projects" is typically an instructional supply, if a specific food texture is required for a sensory diet or to practice a speech-language goal (like swallowing, Feeding), it may be documented as a "related service" supply. Food itself is rarely AT, but the tools used to prepare it are. *Food for cooking projects per the student's IEP are purchased as a General Classroom item.*

### Examples of Assistive Technology:

#### 1. Light-Tech examples: (Simple, inexpensive, no power)

- **Reading:** Highlighters, highlighting tape, magnifiers, colored overlays, page turners.
- **Writing:** Pencil grips, slant boards, bold-lined paper, adapted scissors, styluses.
- **Organization:** Graphic organizers, timers, tactile labels.
- **Eating utensils:** (OT recommended and on the IEP)
- **Environmental:** Specialized choppers, finger guards , or one-handed cutting boards.
- **Sensory:** Fidgets, Weighted blankets, ankle and vests, sensory rollers
- **PT/OT:** scooters, wagons, trampolines, non mechanical devices
- **Communication systems**-PECS, visuals (*Sara Andrea handles the SLP requests*)

#### 2. Mid-Tech examples: (Simple electronics)

- **Math/Reading:** Calculators, audiobooks, electronic dictionaries.
- **Access:** Adapted switches, vibrating cushions, switch activated toys (battery operated)
- **Audio:**Headsets, earbuds and noise canceling headsets, headset adapters, Audio Labelers
- **Visual/CVI-** Talking Calculators, talking scales, vibrant lighted fidgets, digital recorders
- **PT/OT:** Swings, trampolines, trikes, Rifton chairs, Oral motor sensory devices(ie Z-Vibes), adapted scissors (battery operated)
- **Communication:** Simple speech-generating devices (single button), Go Talk, voice recorders. (*Sara Andrea handles the SLP requests*)

#### 3. High-Tech Examples (Complex, computer-based)

- **Writing/Reading:** Text-to-speech software (e.g., Co:Writer, Read&Write), speech recognition (dictation).
- **Laptops and Software** (approved by admin)-Edmark, iKnowit and ULS access, etc. for teachers and students
- **Devices and approved apps** -lpads, ipods, etc.
- **Environmental:** Specialized mounting systems, idevice access switches, Powerlink and specialty appliances

- **Communication:** Dynamic AAC apps on tablets (e.g., Proloquo2Go), Eye-gaze systems, etc.(Sara Andrea handles the SLP requests)

**SPED AT Ordering Process:** The related service providers (ATS, OT, PT, TVI, THH) recommend certain items or devices that fulfill specific needs and functions, and it gets recorded on the student's IEP under Supplementary Aids and Services, the Accommodation/Modification page, or as a Related Service. The teacher or service provider completes a SPED AT request form. The program supervisor reviews the request and approves or denies the request, recommends another option, or marks it as pending to obtain more information or discuss with the team about the request. Once the request is approved, the item(s) are purchased. ATS inventories the items as applicable and the items are distributed to the classrooms via courier, or picked up by the requestor or related service provider. This is the link. [\*\*AT SPED Request Form\*\*](#) The link is located on the LESD Website at Home / Special Education / Life Skills Education Program / Forms & Teacher Resources and also in our Life Skills Classroom Budget Procedure Document which is in our program manual (replaces Live Binder). Any questions please contact Lynnette Kaschke at [lkaschke@lesd.k12.or.us](mailto:lkaschke@lesd.k12.or.us)

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