

IEP MANDATED ASSISTIVE TECH vs INSTRUCTIONAL / PROGRAMMATIC TECH

IEP-Driven Assistive Technology

A tool that enables a student with disabilities to access the curriculum, that otherwise he/she would not have without the use of this technology. These tools always remain with the student in school, and it may also accompany the student home.

Examples of IEP-MANDATED Assistive Technology:

1. A **Portable Word Processor** or other **Keyboarding Device** to allow a student with illegible handwriting (specifically due to motor difficulties, a physical diagnosis, or dysgraphia) to produce legible written assignments comparable to peers in the same placement setting (i.e. General Education, ICT, Special Education)
2. A **Note-Taking Device** with a Braille display for a student with vision impairment.
3. A **Communication Device** to allow a non-verbal student to speak.
4. An **Eye-Gaze System** to allow a student to control a computer when a physical disability prevents this student from doing so using traditional computer-access methods.

Instructional Technology

Tools that a teacher and educational support staff utilize to enhance their teaching, to provide practice, and to motivate their students. It is typically used to help a student learn a skill, but if taken away the student would still be able to access the curriculum using other methods. As technology becomes more mainstream, one would see more technology incorporated into learning environments. *Examples of INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY are:*

1. SMART Boards
2. iPads and computers
3. Computer Software and Educational Websites
4. Voice Output Communication Devices
5. Braille Writers and Printers

Programmatic Equipment

This refers to devices we use within District 75 classrooms that support our students with varying communication, cognitive, and physical needs. These devices always remain in the school. *Examples of PROGRAMMATIC EQUIPMENT are:*

1. Switches and alternative keyboards.
2. Manipulatives, slant boards, adapted staplers, pencil grips, magnifiers, etc.

3. Simple static display electronic communication devices, manual communication boards, etc.

DOCUMENTING EQUIPMENT USE in the IEP

Programmatic Equipment can be included in a student's IEP if certain instructional technology is required based on a particular need of that student. For example, access to tools that allows alternative ways of communicating are generally part of any District 75 classroom. However, in some schools, not all classes are equipped this way. To ensure that a student is exposed to this equipment, it could be added to the IEP under management needs.

Sample Documentation:

"Student requires experience with alternative methods of communication to develop the foundation skills for independent use in the future. Access to alternative methods to communicate must be available within his/her classroom".

IEP-Mandated Equipment must be documented in the IEP when a recommendation is made after an Evaluation process (from Technology, Vision, Hearing, PT/OT, etc.). This recommendation will state that:

- a. the equipment allows the student to independently perform certain tasks which could not otherwise be done without the equipment, OR
- b. the equipment allows the student to perform a task significantly better

The student must have access to this equipment all the time; therefore, consideration must be made to have the equipment go home with them each day and return with them to school each day. If the equipment is too cumbersome to travel with them, there would be an additional setup provided for the home.

Examples of IEP-mandated equipment include: (A) Communication devices that can be accessed independently by the student or with minimal support, (B) Computers or other note-taking devices for students with writing disabilities or graphomotor weakness, (C) CCTVs for visually impaired students, (D) Adaptive equipment for sitting, standing, and walking.

Equipment is often provided in school where training will take place.

Equipment should not travel with the student until the IEP is amended to indicate this. If IEP mandated equipment is lost or stolen, the procedure for replacement must be initiated immediately as the responsibility exists to have this available at all times. [CLICK HERE](#) for the *School-Parent Agreement when a Device is Being Brought Home*.

If the IEP mandated equipment is in need of repair, the procedure to initiate the repair must be done as soon as possible to limit the timeframe that the student does not have this necessary equipment. In all cases, a back up system should be in place. [CLICK HERE](#) for the *Repair Procedure for Assistive Technology Equipment*.