

Technology Updates

District 75 is piloting the use of iPads in the classroom in a lab configuration to enhance instruction.

The Lab configuration has a Host Computer (Desk top) an iPad per student and a printer. The teacher creates folders for each student and adds app's to their folders to remediate weak areas, develop and improve emerging skills, to enhance and provide more information or skill practice following a lesson or to provide access to things like musical instruments that they would normally not have access to.

After this year we hope to post lists of recommended apps to remediate skills and to enhance instruction in several content areas.

As staff uses the iPads and researches app's we hope to hear from you and share what you have found. If you have found an app that ties in well to instruction please email Leslie Schecht and we will be posting a share board on the web with your suggestions.

In addition to this many staff members are using the iPads as mobile assessment tools. The Technology Solutions evaluation team is also using them this way to perform their Assistive Technology Evaluations and to prepare reports.

We have also decided to utilize these devices as IEP mandated communication devices WHEN APPROPRIATE (meaning as a result of an assistive technology evaluation) . We will be adding to IEP's generically as Dynamic Display Devices. We feel that even though Medicaid or insurance companies are not up to speed with recognizing this as a possible solution as it is not a "dedicated device" , we feel we simply cannot overlook the high end accessibility, the social connectedness and the cost factor. This is now considered ONE of the possible things we will be recommending if It is appropriate to meet the student's needs.

We cannot replace existing appropriate devices for this device based on it's popularity as many devices in place actually provide the same kind of language systems. Only if devices are not able to be repaired or there is a feature on one device that simply is not available on the existing device that is imperative to the success of the student. In time many of these will eventually switch over. We simply cannot just part with thousands of dollars of inventory because there is a new device around. The great news is the world of consumer technology is blending finally with the world of specialized equipment.

Instructional and Programmatic application of these devices is at the discretion and the direction of the Administration.

To be clear IEP mandated equipment is placed on IEP's only following the recommendation of a formal evaluation by the Technology Department or an approved ATEA done at the school level.

IEP mandated devices typically travel from home to school.

IEP mandated devices are tied into goals that are mandated and followed.

IEP mandated devices must be integrated into the instruction for the students or the school is out of compliance.

IEP mandated devices provide access to a skill that is not possible through traditional means. In other words use with the equipment makes access to communication and instruction possible whereas otherwise due to a disability it would not be.