



Assistive Technology Department

The Assistive Technology Department, part of Special Education Transdisciplinary Services, provides technology support to Special Education students in the areas of communication, reading, math, spelling, computer access and adaptive classroom participation. Assistive technology (AT) is defined as any technology that is educationally necessary for the student to benefit from special education and meet IEP goals. Examples of assistive technology include simple spell check devices; portable word processing devices and software to aid in completion of written assignments; and voice output communication systems.

The goal of the Assistive Technology Department is to assist school teams in matching technology with student needs to access their educational program. To receive services, a formal request is submitted to the Assistive Technology Department that specifies the need for a consultation, evaluation or follow-up service. The AT Department has a multidisciplinary team of staff members including: an occupational therapist, speech-language pathologists, a resource specialist, and a computer technician.

Assistive Technology staff members:

- Support school teams in completing Assistive Technology/Augmentative Communication evaluations and/or consultations
- Purchase, lease or otherwise provide for the acquisition of assistive technology devices
- Provide training on the operation and application of the assistive technology to school staff and families
- Maintain devices and equipment
- Collaborate with other IEP team members on how assistive technology can be used to support curriculum and instruction

Referrals

Referrals to the AT Department are made in writing by completing the AT forms: *Request for AT Services and Consideration of Assistive Technology: A Guide For IEP Teams*. Staff members can find these forms and more information about referrals online or by calling the AT Department.

The Assistive Technology Department is located at Wiggin Center, 4350 Mt. Everest Blvd. Room B-10, San Diego, CA 92117. To learn more about Assistive Technology services, please call the Assistive Technology Department. To learn more about the district's Special Education Programs Division, please visit <http://www.sandi.net/depts/specialed/>.

SUMMARY

- ❖ **CONSULTATION** includes suggestions for planning the IEP and implementing technology. May include trials with available technology.
- ❖ **EVALUATION** includes an in-depth assessment, observation and an IEP team meeting to discuss results.
- ❖ **FOLLOW-UP** addresses new concerns for a student already known to the AT department.

It's The Law!

- ❖ Federal and state laws require IEP teams to consider the need for assistive technology devices and services under the special factors section of the IEP.
- ❖ San Diego City Schools has a multidisciplinary AT team to assist school teams in selecting appropriate technology.

Contact Information: Assistive Technology: (858) 573-5968
Media inquiries: (619) 725-5578

www.sandi.net
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Serving nearly 136,000 students, San Diego City Schools is the second largest school district in California, with 202 educational facilities and more than 14,500 full-time equivalent positions (representing more than 15,800 employees). SDCS is improving student achievement by focusing on challenging instruction in reading, writing and mathematics in pre-kindergarten through Grade 12. The district is committed to supporting schools and enhancing the classroom learning environment through modernized facilities and resources and through parent, teacher and community involvement in the educational process.