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The Consideration of Assistive Technology in the IEP

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Presented by Bridget Gilormini
PACER Simon Technology Center

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AT for Reading, Writing and Math
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Webinar 101

What Parents & Professionals Need to Know About AT



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- Participants from MN that attend 3/4 of the live core trainings will receive a membership to the STC lending library
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Today's Learning Objectives

Participants will:

- Briefly review definition of assistive technology
- Understand the legal requirements under IDEA regarding AT and the IEP (Individualized Education Program)
- Understand how to access resources for assistive technology

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Asking Questions & Chat

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PACER Center

- Not-for-profit advocacy organization
- Serving parents of children with disabilities
- Primarily staffed by parents of children with disabilities
- Over 30 different programs.



Simon Technology Center



The STC is dedicated to making the benefits of technology more accessible to children and adults with disabilities.

STC Services

- Assistive Technology Information and Referral
- Lending Library
- Free Consultations
- Workshops
- Individualized Trainings*
- In-services*



Most of our services are provided **free of charge** to Minnesotans with disabilities.

What is Assistive Technology?



Assistive Technology is...

As defined by IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and other legislation:

- Any item, piece of equipment, or product system purchased commercially, off the shelf, modified, or customized that is used to **increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a student with a disability.**

Assistive Technology Can Be...



Low-tech and inexpensive....



High-tech and more expensive!

Assistive technology can help a child with a disability...



Walk, move, sit

Communicate



Use a computer



Assistive Technology Can help a child...



Read



Write



Learn



Focus



Eat




Poll Time!

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Consideration of AT and the IEP Process

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The Minnesota AT Manual 2004

The Minnesota Department of Education AT Manual

- Introduction to Assistive Technology
- Frequently Asked Questions
- What You Should Know About Assistive Technology
- Guidelines for Consideration of Assistive Technology
- Quality Indicator for Assistive Technology
- SETTING the Stage for Success



- Appendix A: Assistive Technology Glossary
- Appendix B: Assistive Technology Concepts and Definitions as Defined in IDEA 97
- Appendix C: Minnesota Statutes
- Appendix D: U.S. Department of Education Policy Letters
- Resources for Assistive Technology

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The Minnesota AT Manual 2004

The Minnesota Department of Education AT Manual

Assistive Technology Forms and Worksheets

- Student, Environments, and Tasks Worksheet
- Parent Worksheet
- Student Worksheet
- Assistive Technology Group Planning Process
- Assistive Technology Checklist
- Status Log
- Planning and Implementation Summary
- Extended Assessment Log
- SEIT Framework
- Transition Planning Checklist
- AT Log for Transition
- Assistive Technology Evaluation Report Checklist



The Minnesota AT Manual 2004

Download your copy of the AT Manual at:

http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Special_Education/index.html

Select "Assistive Technology" from links on the right then select "AT Resources"

Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act (IDEA)

- **IDEA is the federal special education law** that addresses services for children with disabilities.
- **IDEA requires that assistive technology be CONSIDERED** for all students with disabilities.
- **The IEP/IFSP team members consider** whether assistive technology and related services are needed by the student to achieve IEP/IFSP educational goals.



IDEA 2004

Assistive Technology Device—In general, the term assistive technology device means "any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of a child with a disability." (34 C.F.R. §300.5)

Exception.—The term does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such device.



IDEA 2004

Assistive Technology Service—The term "assistive technology service means any service that directly assists a child with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. This term includes:

- (A) the evaluation of the needs of such child, including a functional evaluation of the child in the child's customary environment;
- (B) purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of assistive technology devices by such child;
- (C) selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing, or replacing assistive technology devices;
- (D) coordinating and using other therapies, interventions, or services with assistive technology devices, such as those associated with existing education and rehabilitation plans and programs;
- (E) training or technical assistance for such child, or, where appropriate, the family of such child; and
- (F) training or technical assistance for professionals (including individuals providing education and rehabilitation services), employers, or other individuals who provide services to, employ, or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of such child.



IDEA 2004

Sec. 300.105 Assistive technology.

- (a) Each public agency must ensure that assistive technology devices or assistive technology services, or both, as those terms are defined in Sec. Sec. 300.5 and 300.6, respectively, are made available to a child with a disability if required as a part of the child's--
 - (1) Special education under Sec. 300.36;
 - (2) Related services under Sec. 300.34; or
 - (3) Supplementary aids and services under Sec. Sec. 300.38 and 300.114(a)(2)(ii).
- (b) On a case-by-case basis, the use of school-purchased assistive technology devices in a child's home or in other settings is required if the child's IEP Team determines that the child needs access to those devices in order to receive FAPE.



Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act (IDEA)

- IDEA requires that assistive technology must be **CONSIDERED** for all students with disabilities
- Consideration is not defined by law – brief process during each annual IEP/IFSP meeting
- Worksheets for consideration have been developed by MDE
- MDE worksheets and process not mandated but can help the team build a framework when considering and evaluating assistive technology for the student

What is “Consideration?”

- **Consideration** is a process not to be confused with an **evaluation**.
- **Consideration** is not defined by federal law.
- The MN AT Manual defines consideration as, “a relatively short process in which IEP team members use information analysis and critical decision making to determine student needs for AT.”

Team Required to Discuss Four Areas

1. The student’s strengths
2. Educational concerns of parents
3. Most recent evaluation results
4. Five Special Factors for Consideration



Five Special Factors for Consideration

1. Assistive technology
2. The child's behavior
3. Their language needs (ELL, Spanish)
4. Need for alternative language, such as Braille or American Sign Language
5. Their communication needs

AT Manual and the SETT Framework

- The Manual incorporates the SETT approach:

STUDENT
ENVIRONMENTS = TOOLS
TASKS

- Look at the student's needs, his customary environment, and the tasks he has difficulty performing, BEFORE deciding on the tools (AT)

Step 1 Team Gathers Information

- Complete worksheets prior to the meeting
- Report accomplishments and successes
- Identify environments and challenges

Step 2
Team Meets and Plans

- The team meets and plans using information from the worksheets
- Quickly spend a few minutes per topic
- Focus on identifying critical tasks for student

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Step 3
Generate Solutions

- The team brainstorms possible AT solutions (features vs. specific devices and products)
- Identify goals and address barriers to achieving goals
- Seek advice from an AT Specialist, if needed

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Step 4
Solution Selection

- Team discusses possible AT solutions from brainstorming exercise
- Narrow down the solutions based on relevant factors, such as training or product availability
- The solution may be a strategy rather than a device or product
- Assign responsibilities for implementation

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Step 5
Initiate Implementation Plan

- Begin trials of identified devices or products
- Assign names, dates and follow-up meeting times
- Collect evaluation data on the devices
- Use the data to make a decision


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AT Assessments

What is an AT assessment?

- Assessment or evaluation is the formal process of determining what AT devices and services will assist the student in meeting educational goals.

Who conducts an AT assessment?

- Individuals with knowledge of both the student, and the types of AT to meet identified needs:
 - o Schools
 - o Fee-based Organizations
 - o Free Consultations


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AT Assessment is needed...

- At any time when the parent or student (if over 18) requests an evaluation in writing
- If the team cannot identify devices or strategies to assist the student in meeting educational goals
- If equipment trials are inconclusive


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Case Study - Julie



Student

What does Julie need to do but is unable to do?
Julie has difficulty getting her thoughts on paper. The task of writing is laborious.

What are Julie's special needs?
Julie has a diagnosis of learning disability.

What are Julie's current abilities?
Julie can vocalize her ideas with ease and is successful using technology. Julie's fine and gross motor skills are average for her age.

Environment

What environments are typical for Julie where assistive technology may be needed?
Julie attends school during the day where she struggles with test taking and homework. She has difficulty with homework assignments that have written components.

What supports are available to Julie?
Her parents and teacher are motivated to assist.

What materials and equipment are available to Julie?
Julie has access to a computer at both home and school.



Tasks

What activities occur in Julie's environments?
All areas of academics are affected by Julie's writing abilities.

What are the critical elements of this activity?
Julie needs an effective mode of written communication for completing homework assignments and writing papers.

Tools

Are AT tools and/or strategies required for Julie to do these tasks in these environments?
Yes

What no tech, low tech, and high tech options should be considered?
Word prediction programs, voice recognition, note taker.

How might Julie's special needs be accommodated without changing the critical elements of the task?
With the technology listed above, Julie still has to compose the materials just through the use of technology. (rigor has not changed)



Documenting AT in the IEP

1. AT is not needed. The student is making adequate progress through task modification, skill remediation or other interventions. Nothing new is needed for this student.
2. AT is needed, and is successfully being used. In this case, it is appropriate to state in the IEP that particular AT services and devices have been found to be effective to assure that they are available to the student.
3. AT may be needed, but the IEP team is unsure what service or device would meet the student's needs. The team may decide that new AT should be tried and additional data be collected to determine what an appropriate service or product might be.
4. The team is unsure what AT is, and so must find resources in order to make an informed decision regarding consideration. These resources can be from within the school district or, if there are no resources available, from an outside agency or resource.





Frequently Asked Questions



Must every student with a disability be evaluated for AT?

No - but it must be **considered** for every student with a disability, hence the need to provide AT consideration. If the IEP team determines that there is a need for an assistive technology evaluation, that must occur as well.



Are there particular groups of students with disabilities who should be considered for AT?

The federal requirements are clear — AT consideration must occur for ALL students who have an IEP. It is not based on any preconceived ideas about disabilities. It is also possible that a student with a disability may need several types of AT to meet their educational needs, based on their IEP goals and objectives.



Are schools required to pay for assistive technology services and products?

Not necessarily. Schools have the responsibility to provide the services and products that are included in the IEP. However, the school may utilize a variety of funding mechanisms to pay for them, including accessing medical assistance for items which are medically necessary.



What are schools' responsibilities for customization, repair, maintenance, or replacement of AT devices included in the IEP?

Schools are responsible to provide these services in order for a student to receive FAPE. This can include the repair, maintenance or replacement of a privately owned device that is included in the IEP.



Can students take school owned AT devices home on school nights, weekends, breaks over the summer?

It depends.. On a case by case basis, the use of school-purchased AT devices in a child's home or in other settings is required if the child's IEP team determines that the child needs access to those devices in order to receive FAPE



Why do some students refuse to use technology after is is obtained for them?

Unfortunately, AT is sometimes obtained and then not used. We call this **product abandonment**. Some of the reasons given for product abandonment include:

- Student is not involved in the process
- It doesn't do what it is supposed to do
- It got in the way of something else
- It wasn't flexible to changing needs
- It didn't have the "cool" factor
- Needs of the user changed





Overview of AT Resources in Minnesota



Assessment Providers

- PACER Simon Technology Center, Bloomington, MN
 - free, informal consultations, not a formal evaluation
 - www.pacer.org or 952-838-9000
- Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, St.Paul, MN
 - Mobile AT Service serves out-state Minnesota
 - All ages
 - www.gillettechildrens.org or 651-291-2848
- Courage Center, Golden Valley, MN
 - www.courage.org or 763-520-0361
- STAR Program web site lists a comprehensive listing of Minnesota AT Service Providers
 - www.admin.state.mn.us/assistivetechology/
 - call 1-800-657-3862 (Greater MN)



Funding for AT

STAR Program (A System of Technology to Achieve Results)

- Publishes the *Directory of Funding Resources for Assistive Technology in Minnesota*
 - Manual is online at: www.admin.state.mn.us/assistivetechology
- Phone: 888-234-1267 for free copy



AT Loan Programs

PACER Simon Technology Center

- AT FINDER offers software and devices
- Open to professionals and families of students with disabilities in Minnesota
- Yearly membership fees
 - \$100 for professionals; \$50 for families
- Can borrow 3 items for a 4 week loan period
- Contact Information:
PACER at 800-537-2237
www.pacer.org/stc



AT Loan Programs

Minnesota AT Loan Network (MATLN)

- Augmentative communication device and software library available to consumers working with a professional service provider
- Database is online
- Contact Information:
United Cerebral Palsy of Minnesota
1821 University Avenue West #219 South
St. Paul, MN 55104
Tel: 877-528-5678
http://www.ucp.org/ucp_localsub.cfm/90/8365/8377
- Maxine Slobof, MATLN Coordinator
- Email to: ucpmnMatln@hotmail.com
- Page 97 08-09 STAR Directory of Funding and AT Resources



AT Loan Programs

Goodwill / Easter Seals

- Durable medical equipment
 - Walkers, Crutches, Canes, Commodes, etc
- Loan to consumers for up to 6 months
- Contact Information:
553 Fairview Ave. N.
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-379-5922
http://mnges.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=MNDR_community_resources

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AT Loan Program

UCP Central MN

- AT lending library
 - Contact Information:
Matt Koob
510 25th Avenue
St. Cloud, MN 56303
320-253-0765
www.ucp.org/ucp_local.cfm/91
- Page 134 08-09 STAR Directory of Funding and AT Resources



AT Loan Program

PACTT (People Achieving Change Through Technology)

- FREE AT Lending Library
- Contact Information
Ability Building Center
ATTN: PACTT
310 Elton Hills Drive NW
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 535-7101
<http://www.abc-pactt.org>

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AT Loan Programs

Telephone Equipment Distribution Program

- Minnesota Department of Human Services
- Adaptive telecommunications equipment
- Long-term loan of equipment
- Minnesotans with communication or mobility impairments
- Provide consultations to assess need
- Device training for some
- Contact Information:
444 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
www.tedprogram.org
800-657-3663

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Buy/Sell Used AT

SUPER Service

- Still Useful Product and Equipment Referral
- Connects buyers and sellers of assistive technology and used equipment for FREE!
- Visit the SUPER Service at our website!
- www.pacer.org/stc/super



Buy/Sell Used AT

STARTE (STAR Technology Exchange)

- Connects buyers and sellers of assistive technology and used equipment for FREE!
- Listing of both MN and other state AT recycling programs
- <https://www.mnstarte.org/>

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Low-Cost Computers

Minnesota Computers for Schools (Special Kids)

- Program refurbishes used laptops for students with disabilities and sells them to families
- Applications accepted September through April
- Family works with the school
- www.mncfs.org
- 651-779-2816



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Low-Cost Computers

Computers Go Round (UCP Central MN)

- Distributes recycled computers to children and adults with disabilities
- Must have a documented disability
- Live in Stearns, Benton or Sherburne county
- Application process
- Pay nominal fee for computer
- http://www.ucp.org/ucp_localsub.cfm/91/8389/8401
- (320) 253-0765

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CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Low-Cost Computers

PCs for People

- Meet eligibility requirements and pay nominal fee at time of pickup
- 508 Prior Ave N St. Paul, MN 55104
– (651) 354-2552
- 402 Jackson St. Mankato, MN 56002-3526
– (507) 388-7356
- andy.elofson@co.blue-earth.mn.us
- csorensen@pcsforpeople.com
- <http://www.pcsforpeople.com/>



I & R AT Resources

Minnesota Regions Assistive Technology Collaborative

- Organization of 6 volunteer run agencies that provide information and referral for Minnesotans.
- Region 2 - Northeast MN
Pam Parson
Center for Independent Living of North Eastern Minnesota
Mesabi Mall, Suite 25
Hibbing, MN 55746
218-262-6675 or 800-390-3681
parson@accessnorth.net
www.accessnorth.net



I & R Resources

Arc Northland Minnesota

- Individual and Family Advocacy
- Information and Referral
- Educational Programs
- Contact Information:
Ordean Building Suite 201
424 W Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 726-4725 or (800) 317-6475



I & R Resources

Minnesota STAR Program

- A System of Technology to Achieve Results
- Listing of MN Assessment Providers
- AT Funding Resources Statewide
- STAR Point Real Time Stream - 24 hour Webcast
- Minnesota Regions Assistive Technology Collaborative

Contact Information:

www.admin.state.mn.us/assistivetechology/ or
800-657-3862



Other AT Resources

- Directability - www.directability.com
- Alliance for Technology Access - www.ataccess.org
- Family Center on Technology & Disability - www.fctd.info
- Closing the Gap - www.closingthegap.com
- Disability Linkage Line - 1-866-333-2466
- The Minnesota Travel Guide for Persons with Disabilities - www.accessminnesota.org
- MinnesotaHelp - www.minnesotahelp.info





Funding Assistive Technology



Funding AT: Where to Begin?



Identify The Purpose for AT

- Education
- Medical Need
- Employment
- Other – doesn't fall under other categories

Knowing the main purpose of the AT can help you identify potential funding.

AT Funding Sources

Purpose for AT

- Education

- Medical Necessity

- Employment

- Other

Likely Funding Sources

- School Districts

- Government health and human service programs (MA, Medicare, MinnesotaCare), Private Insurance

- Employer, Vocational Rehabilitation Programs, Worker's compensation

- Service organizations, grants, service clubs, nonprofits, private funds



The STAR Program Directory of Funding

- Available online at:
<http://www.starprogram.state.mn.us/>
- Funders/Organizations are listed in alphabetical order
- The AT Funders Index in the back will help you quickly match funding assistance to your specific situation and need.
- County human service agencies are listed in the back and can help you find AT resources specific to your region.



Funding AT for Education



AT for K-12 Education

- Federal law (IDEA) requires K-12 schools (school districts) to provide AT that is required for the student's access to a free and appropriate public education
- A child must qualify for special education or receive services through a 504 plan to be eligible for AT services and devices.
- The IEP team determines if assistive technology is educationally necessary.
- The student's need for AT must be documented in the IEP.



AT for K-12 Education

- Funds are provided to school districts not individuals or families.
- If school district pays for 100% of the AT, it belongs to the school
- If the school bills any part of the AT equipment to a third party such as MA, the family's private health insurance, the equipment belongs to the child/family.
- Only health related services may be eligible for payment from MA, MinnesotaCare, or private insurance.
- Examples of health-related AT may include: communication device, durable medical equipment, such as walkers, wheelchairs, medical equipment and supplies



Documenting the Need for AT in Education

Documentation should include:

- How AT supports achievement of educational goals and participation in the general curriculum.
- Specific features of the requested technology – focus on features of the technology and how they support the student.
- Measurable and observable outcomes for AT that allow the team to review the success of the AT.
- The need for related AT services in the IEP, such as assessment, trial use, training, etc.
- Refer to the MN AT Technology Manual for MN guidelines on documentation available at: <http://education.state.mn.us/mde/static/0057/9%20ATManual%581%5D.pdf>



Funding AT for Medical Needs



Defining “Medically Necessary”

- Generally “medically necessary” is defined as a service or piece of equipment that is required for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness, injury, condition or disease in accordance with current medical practice.
- Contact your funder to find out if you qualify for AT that is medically necessary.
- The determination is made on the basis of the funder’s policies and the individual’s unique situation.
- STAR 08-09 Directory page 24



Minnesota Government-funded Health Programs

- Medical Assistance (MA) health program for low-income and people with disabilities
- General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) Primarily for low-income adults who don't qualify for MA and other health programs
- MinnesotaCare (MC) subsidized health care program for people who don't have access to health insurance
- Criteria is primarily low income individuals with disabilities or many medical needs.
- Criteria for AT covered is different for each program
- All ages and disabilities
- Need for AT determined on an individual basis and must be found to be medically necessary to be covered.



TEFRA and Medical Assistance

- TEFRA (Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act) is a special option that allows some children with disabilities who live with their families to be eligible for Medical Assistance without counting parent’s income.
- With TEFRA option families can qualify for MA if they don’t meet income guidelines by paying a spend down.
- For more details, contact Minnesota Health Care Programs:
 - 651-296-7675 (Twin Cities)
 - (800) 657-3739 (outside metro area)



TEFRA

- To qualify for TEFRA, a child must meet ALL of the following conditions:
- live with at least one parent
- be under 18,
- be certified blind or disabled,
- have a disability determination from the State Medical Review Team,
- need a certain level of home health care to stay at home which compares to the level of care provided in a hospital, nursing home or an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded
- the cost for home care must not be more than the cost for care in a medical institution.



MN Department of Human Services Waivers, Programs, and Grants

- Must be eligible for MA to qualify for most waivers
- Waivers were created to promote home and community-based living
- Waiver funding can be used to purchase a wide range of assistive technology beyond medical needs.
- Eligibility requirements vary by age, disability status, needs, etc.
- Form more information contact:
 - County Human Service Agency (listing on pages 137-142)
 - Minnesota Children with Special Needs Program, 1-800-728-5420
 - Website: www.health.state.mn.us/mcshn



Medicare

- persons age 65 or older OR
- Must receive social security retirement benefits or be permanently disabled and receiving SSI benefits or have end stage renal disease
- Devices must be medically necessary
- Some funding sources only allow you to purchase from designated Durable Medical Equipment dealers.
- Some funding sources will only cover dedicated devices.



Private Insurance

- Largely unregulated
- Will not cover costs that are covered by public systems
- Policy by policy basis/individual need
- Must be medically necessary
- Company must reveal criteria for determining medical necessity
- You have the right to appeal denial of benefits.
- Insurance Division of the MN Department of Commerce 651-296-2488 or 1-800-657-3602.


CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Documenting the Medical Need for AT

What kind of "documentation" is needed?

- For medical needs, documentation from a qualified professional such as a:
 - Doctor
 - Teacher
 - Speech Therapist
 - Occupational Therapist
 - Assistive Technologist
 - Rehabilitation Engineer


CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Types of documentation to gather:

- For Medicare and MA and private insurance, there must be a "determination of medical necessity" to receive authorization for AT.
- Physician letter describing the medical need for AT related to disability
- Letters of medical necessity from other professionals involved in your case, i.e. speech therapist, physical therapist
- Physician's prescription for devices and services.


CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Sample Letter of Medical Necessity

STAR Manual page 26

What it should contain:

1. Disability Description
2. Assistive Technology Description
3. Assistive Technology Relationship to Medical Needs
4. Inability of Alternative to Meet the Medical Needs
5. Ability to Use Technology
6. Requested Assistive Technology as Community Standard



Funding AT for Employment



MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development (Rehabilitation Services)

- STAR Manual page 101
- Provide vocational and independent living services to Minnesotans with disabilities transition age and up through 3 programs:
 - Vocational Rehabilitation Program
 - Independent Living Program
 - Extended Employment
- May assist with device purchase and rental



Employers

- Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, employers have some responsibilities to provide reasonable accommodations, including assistive technology, to individuals with disabilities.
- You must prove that the device or service will enable you to enter or continue employment.
- For more information, contact ADA Minnesota, <http://www.adaminnesota.org/>
(651) 603-2015 (V)
(651) 603-2001 (TTY)
(888) 630-9793 (ADA Minnesota's new Toll Free number)



Workers Compensation

- STAR Manual page 44
- For people with work-related injuries and occupational disease
- While this program does not purchase equipment and services for individuals, it is responsible for ordering that employers and their insurance providers purchase equipment.





Denials and Appeals

- Don't take an initial "no" for a final answer. Denial for funding is not uncommon. Persistence is the key.
- Most every funding source has an established appeal process
- Appeal process requires you to provide further written evidence to support your appeal. With governmental agencies, you must file your appeal letter within 30 days of denial.
- Enlist the help of a professional, such as a therapist or physician, to build a strong case
- For specific strategies for appealing to different funding sources, refer to Step 10 of the STAR Manual page 49



Additional Funding Sources



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Other AT Funding & Provider Resources

This category includes private, nonprofit, or corporate AT funding sources such as:

- Personal Loans
- Other Government Programs
- Foundation Grants
- AT Loan Programs

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Government Funding

Minnesota State Services for the Blind

- Ages - children, youth, and adults with a vision impairment.
- Eligibility varies depending on the program.
- Have a program for seniors that fund AT for independent living

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Personal Loans

Assistive Technology of Minnesota (ATMn*)

- Provides low interest loans
- Information and advocacy to access AT
- Must be Minnesota resident diagnosed with a disability, all ages
- Amount of loans vary but cover both devices and services
- Installment plan to meet budget



Personal Loans

National Federation of the Blind (NFB)

- Provides low interest loans to assist blind individuals in acquiring computers and related equipment
- Maximum loan amount: \$3,000
- Income requirements: \$10,000 – \$35,000



Foundation Grants for Organizations

- Local library assist in locating both local and national grant organizations
- Directory of Grants for Organizations Serving People with Disabilities
- Directory of Computer and High Technology Grants
- Directory of Building and Equipment Grants



Service Clubs

Service clubs often contribute funds or organize fundraisers.

- Chamber of Commerce – local clubs
 - Kiwanis
 - Knights of Columbus
 - Lions
 - Elks



Shriners Hospitals

- Provides medical, surgical, and rehabilitation care and services to families free of charge.
- Children under 18 years
- Reasonable possibility the condition can be helped.

Contact information:
2025 East River Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55414
Phone: 612-596-6100

www.shrinershq.org/Hospitals/Twin_Cities/admission



AT Loan Programs

Hope, Inc – Moorhead, MN

- Magic Mobility - Lending Library
- Pediatric mobility equipment
 - Wheelchairs, walkers, adapted trikes, and bikes
- 6 week loan program
- No fee
- If lending library proved beneficial, also provides funding assistance



AT Loan Programs

Regional Assistive Technology Center

- Statewide Minnesota
- Provides short term loans of communication devices writing tools, and computer access.
- Assessments
- Trainings and In-services
- Assistance in funding


CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

AT Loan Programs

Public Libraries

- Many public libraries have AT devices or software for use at the library or for loan
- There are 12 public library systems in the state that can help you find local libraries in your area that may have AT. See pg 74-85 for library listings.


CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Resources

Minnesota Disability Law Center

- Statewide project that provides free civil legal assistance to people with disabilities on legal issues related to their disabilities.
- The Minnesota Disability law Center
430 First Avenue N, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1780
Toll Free Number: 1-800-292-4150
Web site: www.mndlc.org


CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Contact Information

- Bridget Gilormini
- AT Specialist
 - PACER Center's Simon Technology Center
 - 952-838-9000
 - bridget.gilormini@pacer.org
- Simon Technology Center
 - stc@pacer.org

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