



## Assistive Technology

Est. Time: 3.5 Hours

### Objective

To foster knowledge about various assistive technology (AT) devices available for students with disabilities.

### Overview

Assistive technology is a term that refers to products that help offset some of the functional limitations of a disability. For example, a hearing aid offsets the functional limitation of a hearing loss by providing increased amplification for better hearing. AT is any device of service that helps a student with a disability to meet her or his individualized education program (IEP) goals and to participate in the general education setting to the greatest possible extent. Teachers should be aware of the different types of available assistive technology.

### Activity

In groups of four or fewer:

1. Select a disability about which to gather information and use the Internet to find companies that provide assistive technology geared to serve this type of disability. Use at least three sites to find information about assistive technology tools for this disability. Note that determining a student's AT needs is an individual process. The needs of one student with a learning disability, for example, may not be the same as for another student with a similar disability.
2. Summarize the information you've obtained in the form of a handout. This should include the provider agency, address, Web address, telephone number, target population, and a brief description of the supports or products provided.
3. To enhance this activity, interview someone that works at one of the agencies you discovered or someone who has the disability about which the information is being compiled. Learn more about how the AT helps the individual to improve her or his functional performance (e.g., communicating, moving about the school building, performing academic tasks).



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