

# Assistive Technology in the Classroom

## Wisdom Wednesday- May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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# ABLE Tech's Mission

Our mission is to improve the lives of all Oklahomans by providing assistive technology (AT) devices and services, financing opportunities, digital accessibility services, advocacy, and education.

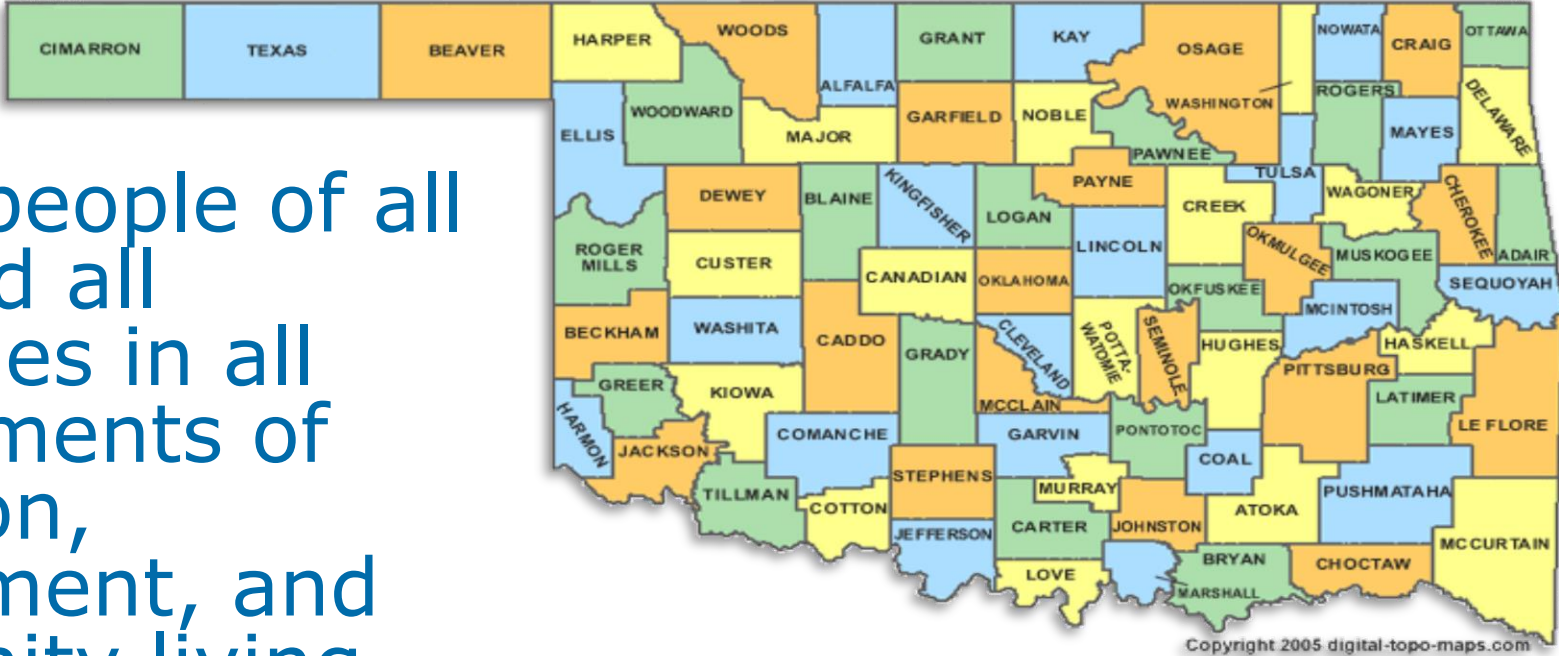


# AT Act Program

- Federally funded through the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in the US Department of Health and Human Services
- Supports state/territory efforts to improve the provision of AT to individuals with disabilities of all ages through comprehensive, statewide programs that are consumer-responsive.

# Oklahoma ABLE Tech

Serves people of all ages and all disabilities in all environments of education, employment, and community living statewide



# **TOPIC 1: AT DEVICES AND SERVICES**

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# What is AT?

AT is anything that helps a person with a disability do a task easier, better, faster, or more efficiently that might otherwise be difficult or impossible to do without it. Includes low-tech, mid-tech, and high-tech.

# AT Services

AT is also the service that directly assists an individual with a disability with the selection, acquisition, or use of an AT device.

# Myths and Misconceptions about Assistive Technology (AT)

1. Students who use AT are getting an unfair advantage.
2. AT will fix the student's challenges or deficits.
3. AT can replace good teaching.
4. All technology is Assistive Technology
5. In order to reach their academic potential, students with disabilities should use AT for everything.
6. All AT is high-tech and expensive.
7. What works well for one student will work well for other students.
8. If you have Universal Design for Learning (UDL), you don't need AT.



# AT and the Law

There are 4 primary laws that impact AT in the educational setting:

1. The Assistive Technology Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-364) (AT Act)
2. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
3. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (Title II)
4. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)

# 1. AT Act

- Written to include technology advances to improve the lives of all Americans with disabilities of all ages and in all environments on a statewide-basis by increased access to and acquisition of AT.
- ABLE Tech is Oklahoma's AT Act Program.

# ABLE Tech Services Provided

- Demonstrations of AT
- Short-term loans of AT (up to 6 weeks)
- Free gently-used durable medical equipment (DME) and AT
- State financing activities
- Trainings
- Public awareness events about AT
- Consultations
- Training on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility

## 2. Key Points of IDEA and AT

1. Consider AT needs of all students with disabilities and document in the IEP.
  - A. Development
  - B. Review
  - C. Revision
2. Schools are to provide AT if it is needed for a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).
3. Provide AT at NO COST if required.
4. Can NOT delay in the provision of the required AT.

# 3. Title II and AT

1. Civil Rights Law -- Schools are a government entity and therefore fall under ADA.
2. "Auxiliary aids and services" cover the services/devices of AT.
3. Students with disabilities must have communication that is as effective as communication with others without disabilities.

## 4. Section 504 and AT

1. Students may qualify for 504 even without qualifying for Special Education.
2. Schools must provide equal access to their programs and services.
3. Reference to AT located within the document reads: Special Education and related aids and services "supplementary aids and services" setting in which students are served.



# Assistive Technology Devices

## Ten Categories of AT



1. Computer Access

2. Vision

3. Hearing

4. Learning, Cognition,  
and Development

5. Daily Living

6. Speech  
Communication

7. Seating, Positioning,  
and Mobility

8. Environmental  
Adaptations

9. Recreation, Sports,  
and Leisure

10. Vehicle Modifications



# AT Category Overview

- Computer Access
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Hearing
- Learning, Cognition, and Development
- Recreation/Sports/Leisure
- Seating, Positioning, & Mobility
- Speech Communication
- Vehicle Modifications
- Vision



# AT Examples – Computer Access

KidTRAC



# Vision

Video Mag



# AT Examples –

## Hearing

### Comfort Duet



## Learning, Cognition, and Development

### C Pen Reader Pen



# AT Examples – Daily Living

Silverware/Tools  
with  
Built-up Handles



# Speech Communication

Super Talker



# AT Examples –

## Seating, Positioning and Mobility

Disc O Sit



## Environmental Adaptations

Weighted Lap Pad



# AT Examples –

## Recreation, Sports and Leisure

Dice Roller



## Vehicle Modifications

Bear Buddy  
Unbuckle Assistant



# AT Discovery

AT Discovery is a clearinghouse for information related to AT devices and services. Each webpage contains case studies including people of all ages and disabilities in all environments of education, employment, and community living; tips; financial/funding information; videos; and links. These webpages will help you find AT solutions to help individuals do tasks that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to do.

<https://www.okabletech.org/at-discovery/>



# **TOPIC 2: ACCESSING AT DEVICES AND SERVICES**

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# Device Demonstrations

Demonstrations compare the features and benefits of AT and also give individuals the ability to see, touch, and try AT to help them in the decision-making process by providing:

- Hands-on exploration of devices
- Information on the latest technology
- Low-tech solutions and adaptations
- Vendor sources with prices





# Device Short-Term Loan Program

The purpose of the Device Short-Term Loan Program is to provide free, short-term loans of AT to let individuals try devices prior to purchase, have access to a backup system when a device is in for repair, and/or have access to a device while waiting for a device to be delivered. Anyone can borrow up to 3 devices at a time.

# Device Short-Term Loan Program Continued

## How to Borrow a Device for Short-Term Loan:

- The program is easy to use.
- All device loans are for 6 weeks unless otherwise specified.
- Use the link to search for equipment and submit a request.  
<https://myatprogram.org/DeviceLoan/Search>
- In order to fulfill your request, you will either need to log in or register for an account.

# Information and Assistance

- Information and Assistance
- Consultation
  - View the consultation form at: <https://www.okabletech.org/core-programs/at-consultations-individuals/>
- Continuing Education

# Oklahoma Funding Guide

Oklahoma ABLE Tech has compiled a list of Oklahoma's public and private funding sources for AT/DME with specific criteria regarding age, disability, and income.

View the Oklahoma Funding Guide at:

<https://www.okabletech.org/resources/at-funding-guide/>.



# QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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# Contact Information

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