



State Wide Assistive Technology and Augmentative Alternative Communication



WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Assistive Technology (AT) is any tool, from low to high tech, that helps a person with a disability to achieve greater independence and ensures access to their education. AT includes both products and services. AT services include evaluating and identifying support tools, training the student and classroom staff in their effective use, and consulting with classroom and allied health professionals.

IMPORTANCE TO SCHOOLS

IDEA legislation mandates consideration of AT on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to support a child's participation in the least restrictive environment and promote access to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

ABOUT SWAAAC

Colorado SWAAAC is a statewide initiative funded by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and managed by the Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE) with the aim of supporting **assistive technology teams** in Colorado public schools. SWAAAC achieves this aim by providing an assistive technology **loan library**, **training**, **technical assistance** and **consultation**, and **statewide collaboration**.

LOCAL SWAAAC TEAMS

Local SWAAAC teams are interdisciplinary groups of education professionals that provide AT services in schools. AT services enable students with disabilities to achieve full access, participation, and independence in the classroom. SWAAAC teams have access to a large assistive technology loan library. They can check out items for students or other school personnel to borrow and trial. Not all teams use the "SWAAAC" name. Teams may be called "SWAAAC" or "Assistive Technology" Teams. If you don't know your local team, visit www.swaaac.org/team-coordinators-list or check with your Special Education Department.

AT LOAN LIBRARY

The SWAAAC Assistive Technology Loan Library has over 1500 unique items available for check out by AT teams. AT teams help make this resource available to children for equipment evaluation and trial. Devices may also be used by teachers, therapists, and other staff to learn to use the device to effectively serve a student. A catalog is available for viewing at swaaac.goalexandria.com. Anyone may browse the catalog, however, equipment loans must be requested by a SWAAAC team coordinator.

TRAINING

SWAAAC hosts a variety of training events that feature a range of AT topics including assessment, implementation, strategies, DIY projects, and content reflective of evidence based practice. For a current list of upcoming trainings, please visit www.swaaac.org/trainings.

