



The Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs Presents:

The 21st Century Assistive Technology Act

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Assistive Technology Act Defines AT

AT Act defines AT as any item, device, or piece of equipment used to maintain or improve the functionality of people with disabilities, allowing them to be more independent in education, employment, and community living activities (as defined by the Assistive Technology Act).
Includes no/low-tech, mid-tech, and high-tech

IDEA Defines AT

Section 300.5

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 the functional capabilities of a child with a disability. The term does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such device.

Overview of the Assistive Technology Act of 2022

Assistive Technology Act

Reauthorizes the AT Act of 2004 – 18 years since last reauthorization

Section 4- State Assistive Technology Act Grantees

Operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and four Territories

Available for persons with all types of disabilities, all ages, in all environments (education, employment, community living and information technology)

Varying Structure of AT Act Programs

AT Act Programs are housed in either:

- 1) State Government (i.e. - VR, Education, Health)
- 2) University
- 3) Non-Profit (i.e. Easterseals)

Where are AT Act Programs Housed?

- 14 AT Act Programs housed in Non-Profits
- 21 AT Act Programs housed in Universities
- 21 AT Act Programs housed in State Government

Assistive Technology Act (cont.)

Grants for State Assistive Technology Programs:

State-Level Activities:

Device Demonstrations
Device Short-Term Loans
Device Reutilization
Financial Loans

State-Leadership Activities:

Information & Assistance
Training
Public Awareness
Technical Assistance

State-Level Activities

Core Programs Related to AT



Device Demonstration

See, touch, and try AT devices to help aid you in the decision-making process.



Device Short-Term Loans

Borrow AT to determine if a device meets your needs before making a purchase.



Device Reutilization

Receive gently used AT devices and durable medical equipment to use for as long as you need.



Financial Loans

Purchase your own AT device or equipment with a low-interest loan.



State-Leadership Activities: Information & Assistance (I&A)

Information and assistance (I&A) activities are those in which AT Act Programs respond to requests for information or put individuals in contact with other entities.

These other entities can provide individuals with information and intensive assistance on AT devices/services or AT funding.

State-Leadership Activities: Training

Training activities are instructional events for a specific purpose or audience that are designed to increase participants' knowledge, skills, and competencies around AT. Examples include large or small group classes, workshops, and presentations, and training can be delivered in person or via a variety of distance education mechanisms (ED, 2011).

State-Leadership Activities: Technical Assistance

Technical assistance (TA) is provided by AT Act Programs to help public agencies and other organizations improve their, policies, programs and outcomes. As a result of TA and other activities, some AT Act Programs report improved outcomes with policy, practices, or procedures that resulted in increased access to and acquisition of AT in the state/territory.

Important Changes in AT Act of 2022

Section 4:

- Federal Partner Collaboration (new language):
 - Every AT Act Program must attempt collaboration with the following state agencies:
 1. **State Educational Agency receiving funds through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;**
 2. Vocational Rehabilitation Agency;
 3. State Medicaid Agencies;
 4. Any other agency in a state that funds assistive technology.

AT Act Program Benefits

Contractual deliverables perfectly align to AT Act Program activities:

- State Level
- State Leadership
- Collaboration Initiatives

More students, school personnel, families, and other service providers are served in a comprehensive way working at both the systemic level (SEA) and the local level (LEA).

Partnerships Enhance Supports

Through partnerships and contracts, AT Act Programs can more fully support SEAs and LEAs in meeting legal requirements for serving students with disabilities.

When students have needed devices and services, they function more independently and participate more fully – making progress towards academic standards and working towards competitive, integrated employment.

Contact Your AT Act Program

Search for your AT Act Program at:

[https://ataporg.org/AT Act Program Directory](https://ataporg.org/AT_Act_Program_Directory)

<https://www.at3center.net/state-at-programs>

About ATAP

The Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) facilitates the coordination of state and territory assistive technology (AT) programs nationally to maintain and enhance a strong, effective, and efficient national network of state and territory wide AT programs. As part of this mission and effort, ATAP also provides technical assistance and support to its members through the Assistive Technology and Training Technical Assistance (AT3) Center.

The AT3 Center provides training and technical assistance for all AT Act Section 4 State and Territory AT Programs to support quality implementation of state-level and state-leadership activities.

ATAP and AT3 both support national assistive technology internet sites that make general AT information available to the public and other stakeholders. To learn more visit us at

<https://ataporg.org>

<https://at3center.net>