



Disability Law Center's Self-Advocacy Materials

Updated November 2017

Special Education

This document is designed for people with disabilities. The information is about your legal rights and how to advocate for yourself as a resident in Massachusetts.

Contact us to request this information in an alternative format.

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Funding

DLC receives funding from government grants, private foundations, and individual contributions. For details about our funding and programs, please visit:

<http://www.dlc-ma.org/about/funding/>

Assistive Technology For Special Education Students

You Will Learn About:

- Assistive Technology (AT) Devices And Services
- Paying For Assistive Technology (AT) In School

This document includes general information about legal issues and is intended to be used for informational purposes only. These informational materials should not be taken as legal advice, and do not create an attorney-client relationship. The outcome of any particular matter will depend on a variety of factors. For specific legal problems you would need to contact an attorney.

Assistive Technology (AT) Devices And Services

What Is Assistive Technology (AT)?

AT is a device that is used to help a child with a disability access an education. Some examples include:

- Specialized computer keyboards,
- Screen magnification,
- Assisted listening devices, and
- Communication devices.

What Is An AT Service?

An AT service helps the school select, obtain and use AT devices. Some examples include:

- AT evaluations,
- Selecting, designing, fitting, maintaining, or repairing AT, and
- Training the child and staff to use the AT.

Paying For Assistive Technology (AT) In School

Will The School Pay For AT Devices And Services?

School districts are required to pay for AT devices and services that are listed on the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and are needed for the child to obtain a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Schools are required to consider a student's need for AT when writing an IEP. This discussion should happen before discussing a child's educational goals.

Can The School Bill The Child's Health Insurance For The AT?

If the family agrees, the school can seek payment from the child's insurance. The family should not have any out of pocket costs for doing this (i.e. a copayment or deductible). The family can also refuse to allow the school to use the insurance and the school will still have to provide the needed AT.

Why Are AT Devices And Services Important?

AT devices and services can be really important tools to help students with disabilities access an appropriate education.