

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING

Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs



The CARES Act provides funding to State Education Agencies (SEAs) to support planning for and coordinating during long term closures that include how to provide technology for online learning to all students that continue to be consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements. State Assistive Technology (AT) Act Programs are equipped to work with SEAs to support distance learning for students that need assistive technology.

State AT Programs enable individuals with disabilities to learn about, access and acquire assistive technology needed for education (and also employment, community living and other needs). State AT Programs are able to best match the proper assistive technology with a students' needs, provide the student with a device demonstration, loan a device, and provide training and support for the student and the use of the device.

Assistive technology and/or adaptive equipment can facilitate learning in a variety of ways for students with disabilities who need technology to maintain or improve their functionality. For example, a student who needs a device to facilitate communication may need an Ipad or Chromebook with an app such as ProloquoText. This app can enable a student to communicate words when listeners do not understand their voice. State AT Programs can loan this app to the student to utilize, train this student and parent on how to use this app, and provide support for the use of this app along the period of use by the student.

Here you can find the list of the direct contact information for your State AT Program.

Through the CARES Act, funding has been made available to SEAs to aid in distance learning, including the purchase educational technology. For students with disabilities, this may include assistive technology (AT) or adaptive equipment. State AT Programs are prepared to contract with SEAs to aid with such services and supports that help students with disabilities.

Governors recommend that State Education Agencies partner with their State Assistive Technology Act Program to do the following:

- Support the purchase of proper AT and adaptive equipment by aiding with AT assessments for students to support the best match of AT for home learning environments;
- Provide trainings and support the use of devices and equipment for both the student and parents for either devices distributed to students by the school, or the devices and equipment purchased by an AT assessment conducted by a State AT Program;
- Aid in the development of and ensure accessible work materials are provided to families and students during remote/digital learning periods;
- Development of guidance for the State Education Agency on universal technology supports;
- Provide training for school-based therapists to effectively deliver tele-practice the special education students at home;
- Provide AT and training to Ed Techs and other paraprofessionals working in new eLearning environments;
- Provided TA to parents who have disabilities so they can best assist the eLearning of their school aged child at home (child could be general education or special education student).

