

**IT and AT let's work together..  
Exploring the relationship between the IT and  
Assistive Technology departments to create  
cohesion.**

**Brainerd Public Schools Journey to a Cohesive Departmental  
Relationship.**

**<http://bit.ly/ITAT2020>**

In the world of IT, in an edtech setting it would only make sense that the different worlds of Assistive Technology and IT would work closely together or so you would think.



So what is assistive technology?

# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Technology that reduces barriers to learning for students with a variety of special needs and challenges.



edutopia

## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY "AT"





## What is Assistive Technology?

- Devices and services that help individuals with special needs:





## Understanding

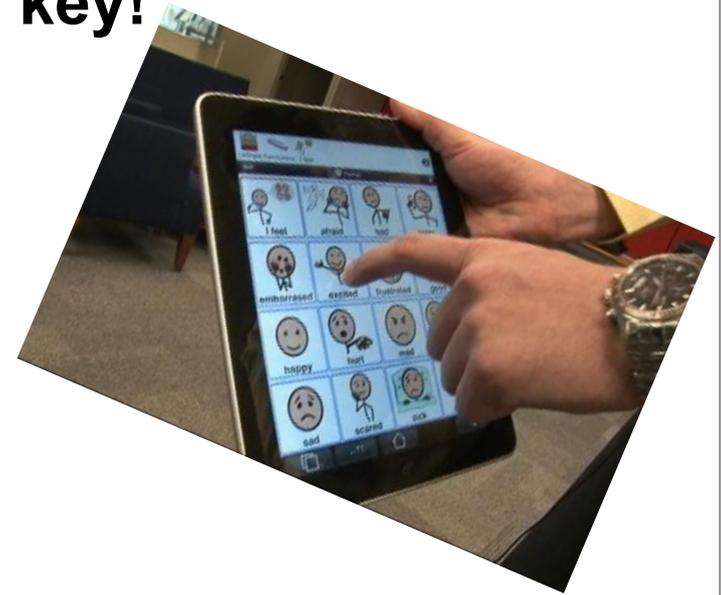
Assistive Technology is so much more than voice to text and screen readers.





# 1. How are we changing?

**Communication is key!**



# 1:1 The shift

We have since changed this by having a go between.

Assistive Technology is not always just a device and it is not always for the hard of hearing or the blind. I believe this is a misconception that at least I had when embarking on this journey.

When we as IT people think of tech we think of all the things we will see here this weekend but think about it. Was the first hammer or abacus considered technology when it was invented?

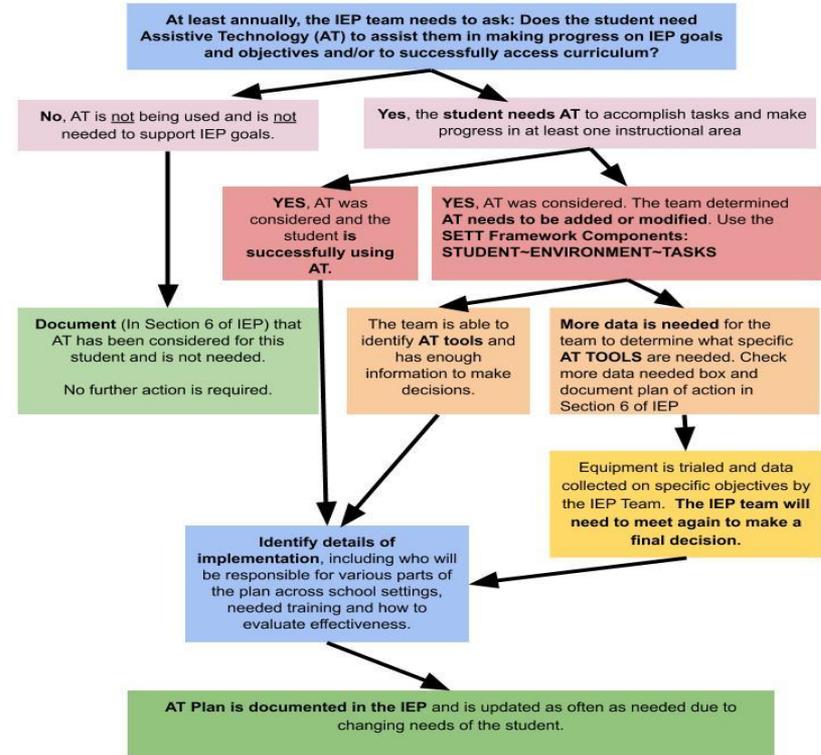
So what are the best tools and how do we figure that out?

# 1:2 Process work together to get the AT needs into the IEP

The first thing to note is if it is in the IEP it is federal law to provide it.

Work with your AT team to determine this.

## Assistive Technology Consideration Flowchart



Having, knowing and, following a process like seen in the above slide can bring down tensions and alleviate many stressful situations.



## 2: Get Involved Seek out Your AT Team And Let Them Know You Are There For Them

**2-1: Work closely with the assistive technology department.**

**2-2: Reach out and ask. Assistive technologists want input and love to share!**



### 3: Always remember you and your team are these students link to future living!

**Just as all students take the education and tools with them after graduation, so do the students who need assistive technologies.**

**This student population will need these technologies in everyday life forever.**



# Helpful Links.

<https://pacer.org/stc/>

<https://mn.gov/admin/star/>

<https://mn.gov/admin/at/learning/prek-12/>

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/index.htm>

<https://www.ata.org/>

<https://support.google.com/accessibility/answer/7641084>

<https://accessibility.umn.edu/>

<https://www.cosn.org/>

<https://support.google.com/accessibility/answer/7641084>

<https://www.closingthegap.com/>

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/about-idea/>