

The Richmond School District provides learning environments designed to meet diverse student needs. Some students; however, require assistive technology devices or services to access these learning environments. In accordance with legal requirements, assistive technology must be considered for all students with special educational needs by the student's individualized education program (IEP) team.

For purposes of this document:

The term "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 functional capabilities of a student with a disability. It does not mean a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such device.

The term "assistive technology service" means any service that directly assists a student with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.

If a student is identified as a child with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the student's IEP team must consider whether assistive technology *or assistive technology service* is necessary to meet the student's individual needs. A student's need for assistive technology shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. If the student's IEP team determines that a particular assistive technology device and/or service is needed in order for the student to benefit from his/her education program, it will be included in the student's IEP.

Those students with disabilities or other special needs but not requiring a formal IEP under the IDEA (for example, students with disabilities under Section 504 or under the Americans with Disabilities Act, migrant students, homeless students, students living with poverty and English language learners), will also be considered for assistive technology devices and/or services on a case-by-case basis. In situations where the potential use of such a device or the provision of such a service is unrelated to a disability, the District will consider the device and/or service in relation to the student's identified special need(s).

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

[Section 115.787\(3\)\(b\)5](#) [IEP development; required to consider assistive technology needs]

Federal Laws

[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#) [programs and services for students with disabilities]

[Enhancing Education Through Technology Act of 2001](#) (Title II, Part D) [educational technology plans, including state-required policies addressing technology concerns for students with special needs]

[Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#) [disability discrimination; reasonable accommodations]

[Americans with Disabilities Act](#) [disability discrimination; reasonable accommodations]

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