

## Assistive Technology in the Classroom

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Applications of assistive technology in the classroom open a new world of possibilities in educating a student with a disability. By adapting the environment, a student is able to take full advantage of the educational environment in ways that were never before imagined. Teaching can be tailored to compensate for the different learning needs of most children inside the regular classroom.

### Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE)

By federal law, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, P.L. 101-476 amended in 1997), every student with a disability is entitled to "a free and appropriate education" in the "least restrictive environment." In addition, special education and related services must meet the individual needs of each identified student and must address inclusion of Assistive Technology. Services listed in the Individual Education Plan must be provided by the school at no cost to the parent.

### Public vs Private Schools

It is important to note that children with disabilities in a private education setting may or may not be entitled to the same FAPE as children in a public school setting. The distinguishing factor is how the child was placed in the private school setting. If the child is placed in a Private Education setting by the Local Education Agency (LEA) or other public agency, the LEA must ensure that the child:

- Is provided specially designed instruction and related services for that child, and at no cost to the parents;
- Provided with an education that meets the standards of the LEA; and
- Has all the rights of any child with a disability served by the LEA

If parentally placed:

- A proportionate amount of the LEA's federal monies is provided to private schools
  - Ex: if 10% of the LEA's children attend private school, then 10% of the IDEA funds go to the private schools.
- Children parentally placed in a private school setting may not receive the same amount of services as children with disabilities in a public school setting.
- Child does not have an individual right/entitlement to special education and related services
- A Service Plan takes the place of the IEP
  - Child shall receive services provided in the service plan.

### Kentucky Assistive Technology Resource Centers

The KATS Network Regional Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRC's) can assist you with one-on-one demonstrations of assistive technology (AT) and short-term loans of AT so that you can try the equipment out at home, work or school. They can provide you with information on qualified vendors and funding information, if needed.

Enabling Technologies – Louisville 800-896-8941 x2648

[spalding.edu/academics/entech](http://spalding.edu/academics/entech)

Redwood Rehab Center - Ft. Mitchell 800-728-9807

[redwoodnky.org](http://redwoodnky.org)

Western KY AT Center – Owensboro 800-209-6202

[wkatc.org](http://wkatc.org)

AT Resource Center - Carl Perkins 800-443-2187

[cdpcrc.ky.gov/services.html](http://cdpcrc.ky.gov/services.html)

## The following resources offer assistance and guidance in obtaining the assistive technology needed:

### Statewide Resources

ARC of Kentucky	(800) 281-1272	<a href="http://arcofky.org">arcofky.org</a>
Best Buddies KY	(502) 736-0838	<a href="http://bestbuddieskentucky.org">bestbuddieskentucky.org</a>
Council on Developmental Disabilities	(502) 584-1239	<a href="http://councilondd.org">councilondd.org</a>
Dyslexia Solutions, Inc.	(502) 499-2744	<a href="http://readfluent.com">readfluent.com</a>
KDE Division of Learning Services	(502) 564-4970	<a href="http://education.ky.gov">education.ky.gov</a>
Kentucky Protection and Advocacy	(800) 372-2988	<a href="http://kypa.net">kypa.net</a>
KY Special Parent Involvement Network	(800) 525-7746	<a href="http://kyspin.com">kyspin.com</a>
Kentucky School for the Blind	(502) 897-1583	<a href="http://ksb.k12.ky.us">ksb.k12.ky.us</a>
Kentucky School for the Deaf	(859) 239-7017	<a href="http://ksd.k12.ky.us">ksd.k12.ky.us</a>
KY Autism Training Center - U of L	(800) 334-8635	<a href="http://Louisville.edu/education/kyautismtraining">Louisville.edu/education/kyautismtraining</a>
Learning Disabilities Association of KY	(877) 587-1256	<a href="http://ldaofky.org">ldaofky.org</a>
Prichard Committee for Academics	(859) 233-9849	<a href="http://prichardcommittee.org">prichardcommittee.org</a>
United Partners in Kentucky	n/a	<a href="http://up-in-ky.com">up-in-ky.com</a>
Weisskopf Child Evaluation Center	(502) 588-6000	<a href="http://uoflphysicians.com/weisskopf-child-evaluation-center">uoflphysicians.com/weisskopf-child-evaluation-center</a>

### National Resources

If you are a parent or teacher in a special education program or in a "regular" classroom, you probably encounter special kids facing special challenges. The following resources provide information about national on-line resources that help you better understand -- and help -- students with special needs.

Assist-it Software Solutions for reading & writing difficulties	<a href="http://assist-it.org.uk">assist-it.org.uk</a>
Assistivetech.net (national web site on AT)	<a href="http://assistivetech.net">assistivetech.net</a>
Assistive Technology Training Online	<a href="http://atto.buffalo.edu">atto.buffalo.edu</a>
Center for Applied Special Technology	<a href="http://cast.org">cast.org</a>
Closing the Gap	<a href="http://closingthegap.com">closingthegap.com</a>
Council for Exceptional Children	<a href="http://cec.sped.org">cec.sped.org</a>
Dyslexia Help	<a href="http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu/answers/independent-schools">dyslexiahelp.umich.edu/answers/independent-schools</a>
Education World – Special Education Resources	<a href="http://education-world.com/special_ed">education-world.com/special_ed</a>
Family Center on Technology and Disability	<a href="http://fctd.info">fctd.info</a>
Great Schools (public & private ratings) Links for ld, adhd, assistive tech, autism	<a href="http://greatschools.org">greatschools.org</a>
LD on Line	<a href="http://ldonline.org">ldonline.org</a>
Learning Ally	<a href="http://learningally.org">learningally.org</a>
National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities	<a href="http://nichcy.org">nichcy.org</a>
Parent Pals Special Education Resources	<a href="http://parentpals.com/gossamer/pages/">parentpals.com/gossamer/pages/</a>
Wrights law	<a href="http://wrightslaw.com/">wrightslaw.com/</a>

**For more information contact the KATS Network (800) 327-5287 – [katsnet.org](http://katsnet.org)**

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