Welcome Back to School

Let’s talk about AT & your 2019-2020 NEAT Subscription
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 Assistive Technology (AT) Supports

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Connecticut's Largest Private Provider of Services to People with Disabilities

Oak Hill sets the standard, partnering with people with disabilities, to provide services and solutions promoting independence, education, health and dignity.
Connecticut's Largest Private Provider of Services to People with Disabilities

- Community Programs
- Education
- Centers:
  - Center for Relationship & Sexuality Education
  - Camps – Harkness & Hemlocks
  - Chapter 126 Adaptive Sports & Fitness
  - New England Assistive Technology
A really NEAT team!
At NEAT we focus on:

- Eliminating barriers & increasing independence
- Working with all ages & abilities
- Support throughout transitions of life
- Assistive Technology (AT)
- Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC)
- Smart Technology
- Blind & Low Vision
Special education law defines **assistive technology** as both **devices** and **services**.
What is Assistive Technology?

- Assistive Technology (AT) is any device, tool, piece of equipment or system that helps bypass, work around or compensate for a student's specific needs.
- AT doesn't cure or eliminate those needs, but it can help capitalize on a student’s strengths and bypass areas of difficulty.
- AT is most effective when accompanied by remedial efforts in an educational setting.
Assistive Technology Services

*Any service that directly assists a student with a disability*

- Evaluating concerns, learning styles, individual strengths as well as identifying goals
- Collaborating with other professionals, families & the student
- Supporting the acquisition of AT
  - Selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, repairing or replacing
- Training & technical assistance for student & support team
Where can Assistive Technology be used?

SCHOOL  WORK  HOME  COMMUNITY
Who can benefit from Assistive Technology?

Everyone, ALL Abilities
When can Assistive Technology be used?
All stages of life and one must establish a foundation for success as soon as possible.
Why should Assistive Technology be considered?

- **Bridge the gap** between what a student is able to do and what their goal is.
- By law, it must be considered at every annual IEP meeting, regardless of the type or severity of the student’s disability.
- Just because you use an UDL approach, does NOT mean that AT is unnecessary.
- AT is more than a “just a tool”.
How should Assistive Technology be considered?

EVIDENCE-BASED

CREDENTIALED PROFESSIONALS

BEST PRACTICE
AT Benefits
Everyone

- Participate in personal care activities
- Play and enjoy recreational activities
- Become mobile
- Communicate
- Hear better
- See better
- Learn easier
- Use a computer
- Increase independence
Everyone!

People of all ages and abilities.

Many of us, with and without disabilities, are using some type of cognitive task assistance or tool.

At-risk students, because they don’t easily fit into a diagnostic profile, they do not receive assistance
AT can be used in all environments

And enhance the life of student and the culture of the school!
AT Fosters Inclusion

Inclusion is the practice of educating all or most children in the same classroom, including children with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities.

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

AT helps students who have disabilities learn the material in a way that they can understand it. Learning styles and personal preferences must be taken into consideration!!!

AT helps eliminate barriers students may face that prevent them from being at the same level as their classmates.

Level the Playing Field!!!
So here is how NEAT can help your district, teachers, professionals, students and families use AT with confidence and fidelity!
We recognize that you may have professionals, teams, consultants, RESCs and other AT resources that you rely on to meet your AT needs.

Please understand that this is not all or nothing. We would like to provide additional help to your students and teams. By all means, continue to utilize those resources. There are SO many students that need support.
“Universal Supports” for AT

BSE – CT AT Guidelines
https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Publications/Assistive-Technology-Guidelines-Executive-Summary

New England Assistive Technology (NEAT) Center

RESC – Regional Educational Service Center

SERC – State Education Resource Center

CT Tech Act Project
Welcome to your NEAT Center Subscription

Here is a look at what’s included!

**WOW!!!** For the 2019-20 school year, the CT Bureau of Special Education (SDE) has provided LEAs identified in Cohort C with “Targeted Supports” of a one-year subscription to New England Assistive Technology (NEAT).
Subscription Benefit

AT Evaluation

At no cost to you, you are entitled to one standard, comprehensive AT evaluation from the NEAT Center.

A formal, multi-step process that results in a set of technology recommendations and/or strategies that are thought to meet the needs of a student with disabilities.

Important Notes:

• Our end date for scheduling AT evaluations and consultations will be March 30, 2019. Please contact as soon as possible in the school year to schedule, to avoid a longer wait period.

• Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) evaluations are not included in this benefit. However, districts can opt to use their AT evaluation as a credit towards an AAC evaluation and pay the difference.
Evaluation Process

Referral

Receival of the referral packet
- Intake form, diagnostic reports, IEP, pertinent health information

Review of the documentation
- AT Specialist(s) is determined based upon areas of specialty
- Profile is built upon individual needs, learning style, strengths, and identified goals
- Questions are determined, there is a brainstorm tools and strategies

A team meeting is scheduled to discuss desired outcomes
Evaluation Process

Evaluation

- A framework is established (SETT – see diagram)
- Observation is conducted
- Demonstrations & Trials are led by the AT Specialist(s)
  - Strategies are discussed
  - Feature matching process begins, & technology platforms are weighed
  - Troubleshooting is inevitable
- Discussion around likes, dislikes, preferences & ideal outcomes
Evaluation Process

Informed Decision-making

- Make sure platforms work seamlessly together
- New tools, updates or concerns are brought to attention
- Find technology to meet unique or specific needs

Research is conducted

- This should never be just a list of tools
- It should have individualized strategies & implementation suggestions

A comprehensive report is generated and shared

- Training is ALWAYS recommended as follow-up services
- Re-assessment is ALWAYS recommended especially as brief check-ins or as needs/technology evolves

Meet to review findings
Subscription Benefit

AT Consultation

At no cost to you, you are entitled to one 2-hour AT consultation from the NEAT Center.

A semi-formal meeting between AT specialists, educators, families, and/or individuals with disabilities and result in a set of suggested tools and/or strategies. It can also be used to learn more about how to effectively use available technologies or as technical support and troubleshooting for current technology.

Important Notes:

• Our end date for scheduling AT evaluations and consultations will be March 30, 2019. Please contact as soon as possible in the school year to schedule, to avoid a longer wait period.

• A written summary is not included but can be requested for a fee.
Subscription Benefit
AT Quality Assurance

The most sustainable quality assurance plan is one that grows organically within each district.

NEAT is providing PD opportunities geared specifically towards the needs of your districts, regarding fidelity and best practice in AT services.

Important Notes:
• Happening throughout the month of October.
• The content will be the same at each session. You can travel to any one of those 6.
• Bring a team of people.
Subscription
Benefit
NEAT Membership

Lending Library: provides short-term loans (30 days) of assistive technology devices

Professional Development: 9+ hours of professional development delivered annually on the hottest trends and latest tools in early education, education, AAC, AT, technology and smart home solutions.

Exclusive Online Resources: A bank of AT and AAC resources, flyers and short training videos are provided to NEAT members with a private link.

Services: As a NEAT member, you are eligible for discounts on additional AT services.
See your NEAT subscription in action:

- District teams attend a NEAT Professional Development in October to increase fidelity within AT and learn more about the AT consideration process and the tools that exist for the students they work with.
- Student in your district, within an IEP, is determined to need AT supports but the team is not sure how to address it. So the district refers the student to NEAT for an AT evaluation.
- NEAT conducts an evaluation and provides thorough recommendations.
- The district would like to start implementing those tools right away or wants time with the AT to make an informed decision. They borrow these devices from the NEAT Lending Library.
- The district team decides that they can use help learning more about the recommendations and strategies for implementation. They ask NEAT to provide a 2-hour consultation.
  - or the district could build capacity by using NEAT’s Member’s ONLY library of online tutorial videos and Member ATventure webinars.
Partners with your district –for a “rising tide will lift all boats”

use AT with confidence and fidelity!
Let’s connect!

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Start using your Subscription Benefits today

Sign-up here and we’ll send you some additional information and log-in information for the exclusive resources.

https://tinyurl.com/y46acpok