

Assistive Technology for Special Needs Students

342.12

The purpose of Policy 342.12 is to establish guidelines to provide educational opportunities for children with disabilities or impairment.

The School District of Phillips is committed to providing appropriate assistive technology to students with disabilities. The school district is also committed to training teachers, paraprofessionals, and students on how to most effectively use assistive technology. The need for assistive technology must be determined on a case-by-case basis. A student may need assistive technology in multiple environments in order to receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

Assistive technology refers to the need for the use of devices and services to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of students with disabilities. An “assistive technology device” refers to any item, piece of equipment (e.g. laptop computers, special audio-visual equipment, special wheel chairs or desk, and/or other capital items for use by students and/or staff), or a product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of students with disabilities. An “assistive technology service” refers to any service that directly assists a student with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.

Assistive technology services include:

1. The evaluation of the needs of such child, including a functional evaluation of the child in the child’s customary environment;
2. Purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of assistive technology devices for such child;
3. Selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing, or replacing assistive technology devices;
4. Coordinating and using other therapies, interventions, or services with assistive technology devices, such as those associated with existing education and rehabilitation plans and programs;
5. Training or technical assistance for such child, or where appropriate, the family of such child; and
6. Training or technical assistance for professionals (including individuals providing education and rehabilitation services), employers, or other individuals who provide services to, employ, or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of such child.

Those students having special needs but not requiring a formal IEP according to law, which may include, but are not limited to migrant students, homeless students, students living with poverty, and English Language Learners, will also be considered for assistive technology devices and/or services. The School District of Phillips is committed to the concept of universal design for learning. This means that, to the greatest extent possible, the District shall recognize and accommodate all learners' individual differences.

Approved: 06/18/07