

## Assistive Technology in Education

Students with disabilities have a right to use Assistive Technology (AT) in public schools. Education programs and schools must give students with disabilities the AT they need to help them learn.

### What is Assistive Technology?

**Assistive technology** (AT) is any device that helps you do everyday tasks more easily or helps you keep doing things you need to do. These devices can be tools, software, or other types of equipment.

**AT services** help you use your AT device. This can include:

- Testing to find the right device.
- Help choose a device.
- Learning how to use your device.

### How do I ask for AT?

Talk to your Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 team. You can ask for AT testing at any time.

### Will the school teach me to use the AT device?

Yes. The school must teach you, your teachers, and anyone else who needs to know how to use the device.

### Will the school district pay for AT devices and services?

Public schools **cannot** make you pay for AT devices or services. The school must give you AT devices or services for free.

- If your IEP or 504 plan lists AT devices and services, the school must pay for those devices and services.

- The school must give you the AT device you need to get a free and fair education.

## Can the school make my insurance pay for the AT?

The school **cannot** make you use Medicaid, Medicare, or private health insurance to get AT.

The school **can** ask if it is okay to use your insurance.

- If you say no, the school must pay for the AT device or service.
- If you say yes, the school must pay for your co-pay or other insurance costs.

## What if the school will not pay for the AT?

If the school will not pay for an AT device or services, they must **tell you why in writing**. You have the right to ask the school to change its decision. This is called a **right to appeal**. You can ask for an appeal by contacting the Rhode Island Department of Education.

## Need More Help?

Contact **Disability Rights Rhode Island**:

- **Call:** 401-831-3150
- **Email:** [info@drri.org](mailto:info@drri.org)

You can also visit the [Rhode Island Department of Education](#) website for more information.