

Transitioning with Assistive Technology

According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the assistive technology needs of a student should be considered in the IEP process. Transition planning, as a student prepares to move from one setting to another, provides an opportunity to ask whether or not the student could benefit from an assistive technology device.

The first step toward making that decision would be an evaluation to determine a student's equipment/software needs. Local Educational Technology Training Centers (ETTCs) offer courses on determining a student's assistive technology needs. Or a technology evaluation could be performed by an assistive technology professional.



If the student already uses a device, transition planning provides an appropriate time to ask if the technology the individual currently uses will be sufficient to meet his needs and the environmental demands of the new surroundings.

Since advancements in technology and software programs happen at a rapid pace, transition planning should take into account how long it will be before a device or its software becomes obsolete. Updating or upgrading may be in order.

Since transition plans affect a student in post-school life, it might be necessary to ask how the individual will acquire the necessary technology after graduation, since in most instances, public schools do not allow the student to graduate with assistive technology devices purchased by the district.

In New Jersey, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) can be involved in a student's transition to college or the workforce. If the student is not transitioning into an educational or occupational situation, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) can help locate appropriate services.

Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey is
Accredited in
Community Employment Services

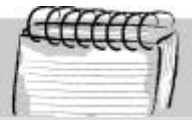
Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey has been recognized by the New Jersey Department of Education as a "Registered New Jersey Professional Development Provider."

For individuals who meet eligibility requirements, funding for therapy services, technology evaluations, equipment needs, housing, day programs and recreational activities may be available through DDD.

This article is the second in a series on Transitioning. The next article will focus on Adapting Core Curriculum Standards for Students with Disabilities.

For more information on Assistive Technology contact Fred Tchang, director of Rehabilitation Technology Services at (888) 322-1918 x 588.

UPCOMING TRAININGS



From Low-Tech to High-Tech: Supports that Work for Students with Learning Disabilities

Accommodating specific learning disabilities requires the creative use of everyday materials. Participants will learn how low-tech accommodations can be used for successful test-taking, note-taking, spelling, and reading. We will review the low-tech accommodations used successfully across the curriculum and compare commonly used mid-tech (handheld spellers, alpha smarts), and hi-tech (talking software, word prediction) tools to help you identify when it's necessary to use one or the other.

Middlesex County ETTC

January 13

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Voice Recognition

Do you have a student who can say what he means out loud, but can't successfully write his thoughts down on paper? Could voice recognition software be a viable solution for that student? Recommended for: interested special educators and parents of special needs students.

Camden County ETTC

February 21

9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Fred Tchang at (888) 322-1918 ext. 588 or contact the County ETTC.

* ETTC stands for Educational Technology Training Center

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THESE AREAS:**

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- ? Transition Planning
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- ? ~~Substance Abuse~~ **Substance Abuse Prevention Education**

**CALL US TODAY AT
(888) 322-1918
OR EMAIL US AT
INFO@CPOFNJ.ORG. WE CAN HELP
YOU EDUCATE STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITIES.**

**COMMON
QUESTIONS**



Q. My daughter is in high school and receives SSI benefits from Social Security. She wants to get an after school job and has an employer already lined up who is willing to hire her. I am afraid she'll lose her benefits if she starts getting a pay-check.

A. People between the ages of 14 and 65 who receive either SSI or SSDI benefits are eligible for Benefits Planning from NJWINS, a Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach project. CP of New Jersey employs benefit specialists, certified by the Social Security Administration, who can provide free information and answer questions about the impact a job will have on your daughter's benefits. These specialists can review your daughter's specific circumstances and provide the facts she will need to make an informed decision about employment.

For more information call 877-NJWINS2 or visit the NJWINS website at www.njwins.org. You can also email questions to njwins@cpofnj.org.

Q. My daughter has a learning disability and I recently enrolled her in a private school. Who is responsible for supervising her Education Program?

A. Regardless of the type of a student's disability, the home school and its district are responsible for supervising the program and services.

For more information contact Michelle Ragunan at (609) 392-4004 x 543.

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