

# Family Tip Sheets:

## What Should I Know About Assistive Technology After High School?

### The Basics

If needed, schools can give students assistive technology (AT) devices. AT devices can help students communicate or participate in classwork. Some examples of AT include:

- Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices
- Word Prediction Software
- Calculators
- Switches
- Screen Readers

These devices can help students participate more fully in school. However, these devices belong to the school. This means when your child graduates from school, they do not get to take any devices with them. If your child relies on any AT provided by their school, it's important to have a plan in place for when they exit high school.

### Myths

#### **Myth #1: My child's school issued assistive technology is theirs to keep.**

School-issued AT belongs to the school. This means your child will not have access to the AT once they graduate.

#### **Myth #2: Getting assistive technology as an adult is difficult.**

It can be hard to get AT as an adult. But the Tennessee Technology Access Program can help. The Funding Specialists will help you determine funding eligibility. They will help you with the application process. And they can help you if you encounter any problems getting a device.

Find your nearest office by searching the Office Locator (<https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/humanservices/ds/office-locator-trc-ttap.html>). Or you can call or email the TTAP program at 615-313-5183/ [TN.TTAP@tn.gov](mailto:TN.TTAP@tn.gov).

#### **Myth # 3: I must get the same assistive technology device my child had at school.**

Your child may do best using the same device they used in school. But it is possible another device may actually be better for your child. Discuss with the IEP team whether they feel your child would be able to

### Who Can Help Me?

The Tennessee Technology Access Program (<https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/ds/ttap.html>), TTAP, can help you and your child get AT. TTAP offers four core programs:

- 1. Funding Assistance:** Funding Specialists work with people with disabilities and their families to find funding options for which they are eligible.
- 2. Device Demonstration:** This program gives people with disabilities the chance to see both high- and low-tech devices that are available.
- 3. Device Loan:** This program gives people with disabilities the chance to try out a device to determine if it's the best device for them.
- 4. Device Reutilization:** This program collects used AT that is no longer used by a person with a disability.

transition to a new device. If this is the case, consider the Device Loan program. The Device Loan program allows your child to borrow a device for a long- or short-term period. This can help you and your child determine if the new device may be a better fit.

### What Questions Should I Ask?

- What AT devices best serve my child's needs?
- What funding sources are available?
- For which funding sources does my child qualify?
- How does the Device Loan program work?

### **Myth # 4: Once my child gets an assistive technology device, they must keep it for the rest of their lives.**

Technology is ever-changing. New devices will become available. These new devices might better serve your child's needs. Perhaps your child no longer needs their device. Or maybe your child needs a new device. Contact TTAP about getting funding to buy a new device. And consider donating the old device to the Device Reutilization program!