

What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology (AT) is **any** tool, from low to high tech, that helps an individual with disabilities achieve greater independence and ensures access to his or her education. AT includes both products and services.



AT Services

- Evaluating and identifying systems
- Training the student and classroom staff in their use
- Consulting in the classroom or with allied health professionals



Contact the
Colorado SWAAAC Office
in Denver
at 303.315.1278,
or visit the SWAAAC website at
www.swaaac.com to learn more.

Importance to Schools



IDEA legislation mandates consideration of AT on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to support a child's participation in his/her least restrictive learning environment. This mandate can promote access to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

AT in a School Setting

- Is a lifeline that provides students with equal access to information and learning.
- Can help students with physical disabilities, speech impairments, visual or hearing impairments and learning differences.
- Combines efforts and support of the student, their parents, teachers and the educational team.



Any member of an IEP team may initiate a referral to the local SWAAAC team. The contact information for these teams can be found at www.swaaac.com.

If there is not a local SWAAAC team in your district, contact the Colorado SWAAAC office at 303.315.1278 for resources and support.



State-Wide Assistive Technology and
Augmentative Alternative Communication



Supporting Learning Through AT

Colorado SWAAAC and local AT teams support learning by connecting students with disabilities to the tools and technology they need to achieve their full potential.

www.swaaac.com



Assistive Technology Partners

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Colorado SWAAAC

- Statewide initiative supported by the Colorado Department of Education
- Managed by Assistive Technology Partners at the University of Colorado Denver, Department of Bioengineering
- Supports AT teams in Colorado schools



Colorado SWAAAC Vision

- Colorado will realize educational equity and excellence for students with disabilities through the use of Assistive Technology (AT).
- Learners will achieve high standards of performance through AT.
- Families, educators and communities will share information and resources about AT.
- Students will have access to the AT tools they need to be successful in the classroom and beyond.

Achieving the SWAAAC Vision

Colorado SWAAAC provides:

- Training
- Technical Assistance
- Consultation
- Equipment Loan Library
- Statewide Collaboration



Colorado SWAAAC AT Loan Library

- Available to children in the public school system.
- Provides students with access to equipment for evaluation and trial.
- May also be used by SWAAAC team members to learn to use the equipment to better serve a student.
- A catalog is available for viewing at www.swaaac.goalexandria.com.
- Anyone may browse the online AT loan library catalog; however, equipment loans must be requested by a SWAAAC Team Coordinator.



Colorado SWAAAC Training Events

Each year SWAAAC hosts a variety of training events featuring a range of AT and AAC topics including:

- assessment
- curriculum
- intervention implementation strategies
- hands-on make-and-take projects
- content reflective of evidence based, best practice

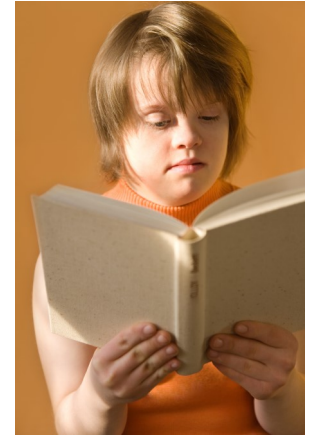


These training events are carefully selected to support students and meet the professional development needs of special education teachers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech language pathologists, general education teachers, assistive technology specialists, and students' parents.

For an up-to-date list of upcoming trainings, please visit www.swaaac.com.

Local SWAAAC teams

- Interdisciplinary groups comprised of education professionals from disciplines such as speech language pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, special education, and psychology.
- Provide AT services in schools to enable students with disabilities to achieve full access and participation in educational opportunities.
- Originated in Colorado schools in 1985 with 25 members. Today, there are over 60 participating school districts and



nearly 500 SWAAAC team members in the state.



Contact a Local Team

Not all use the "SWAAAC" Name

Most school districts in Colorado have SWAAAC teams to serve their students with disabilities. Teams may be called SWAAAC or Assistive Technology Teams. Check with your Special Education Department if you do not see your district team coordinator listed under "Contact Us" on the Colorado SWAAAC website at www.swaaac.com.