

GLOSSARY OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TERMS

Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) - specialized formats for curricular content that can be used by and with students who have a print disability. Formats can include braille, large print, audio or digital text.

activities of daily living (ADL) - activities that reflect a person's ability to perform tasks that are essential for self-care, such as bathing, grooming, feeding oneself, dressing, toileting, and mobility including walking, transferring, or independently using a wheelchair to move from one place to another.

advocacy - speaking or acting on behalf of someone to protect his or her rights and needs.

alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) - any system that aids individuals who are not independent verbal communicators. The system can include speech, gestures, sign language, symbols, synthesized speech, dedicated communication aids or microcomputers.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act (ADAAA) of 2008 assures full civil rights of people with disabilities. Guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in employment, public accommodations, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

appeal - a process which takes place after a request or application is denied. Additional information is supplied to the funding agency so they may reconsider the request.

apps - application software, also known as an app, is computer software designed to help the user to perform specific tasks. Many apps can assist an individual with disabilities to be more independent in a variety of task such as speaking, reading, learning, and memory.

assistive technology (AT) - a term to describe any type of assistive device or service.

assistive technology device - any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

assistive technology service(s) - any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. These include evaluation and assessment, acquisition and/or purchase, coordination with existing services, training and technical assistance for an individual with a disability and/or the family, and training or technical assistance for service providers and employers who are substantially involved with the individual.

Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) - a trained assistive technology professional analyzes the needs of individuals with disabilities, assists in the selection of the appropriate device or equipment, and trains the individual on how to properly use the specific device or equipment. An ATP is certified by RESNA through a credentialed process.

durable medical equipment (DME) - a piece of equipment that can withstand repeated use, is primarily and customarily used to service a medical or therapeutic purpose, is generally not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury, and is appropriate for use in the home.

environmental adaptations - modifications or changes made to an individual's environment (e.g., home, work, school, community) to assist in living independently. These modifications include ramps, widening of doorways, modifying bathrooms, special furniture, other additions of equipment, etc.

environmental control unit (ECU) - a system that enables individuals to control various devices in their environment with single or multiple switches. The control unit may be mounted on a wheelchair for ease of access. Devices that can be operated with ECUs include lights, door openers, televisions and telephones.

Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) - IDEA requires state and local education agencies that accept Federal funds to provide a FAPE, in the least restrictive environment, for ALL children with disabilities who are ages 3-21.

inclusion and integration - use of the same community resources available to others. Contact and interactions with citizens without disabilities including physically, socially, academically or vocationally and societally.