

## 1900: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

### **IDEA and Assistive Technology:**

Assistive technology is a critical early intervention service authorized under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for children with disabilities birth to three years of age. Oklahoma SoonerStart Early Intervention builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist family members and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through everyday learning opportunities.

**Note:** View the full **Technical Assistance Guide: Assistive Technology for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities**, IDEA Part C, for more complete information regarding assistive technology consideration and assessment and to view specific laws as they relate to providing AT devices and services to infants and toddlers at:

<https://okabletech-docs.org/homepage/at-ta-document-part-c/>

### **What are Assistive Technology Devices and Services?**

Assistive technology (AT) **device** means any low-tech or high-tech item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, customized, or individually created, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of children with disabilities.

Assistive technology **service** means a service that directly assists a child with a disability in the selection, acquisition or use of an assistive technology device. Assistive technology services include:

- the evaluation of the needs of a child with a disability, including a functional evaluation of the child in the child's customary (natural) environment;
- purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of assistive technology devices for children with disabilities;
- selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing or replacing of assistive technology devices;
- coordinating and using other therapies, interventions, or services with assistive technology devices, such as those associated with existing education and rehabilitation plans and programs;
- training and technical assistance for a child with disabilities, or if appropriate, that child's family and
- training or technical assistance for professionals (including individuals providing early intervention services or other individuals who provide services to, or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of individuals with disabilities).

The need for AT devices and services should be determined on an individual basis by the IFSP team as they consider all services that are necessary for the child to achieve his/her outcomes.

## **Assistive Technology Assessment**

The following are important to note as teams are completing the assessment process:

Unlike other educational assessments, an AT assessment is not completed with the administration of one test during a singular event.

- Assistive technology assessment is ongoing and should be a continual part of the child's plan.
- Assistive technology assessments are conducted within the child's natural environment by providers knowledgeable about AT devices and services.
- SoonerStart may provide adaptive equipment for trial and use as an assessment tool. The equipment used in this program may be new or used. The equipment may be owned by the State of Oklahoma or may be entrusted to the State of Oklahoma by individuals for use in the SoonerStart program. See **Equipment Use Agreement (Appendix W)**.

## **Assistive Technology Use and Demonstration Reporting**

- Demonstrations of assistive technology should be reported on the **SoonerStart AT Use and Demonstration Reporting Form**
- The form is available online at :  
[https://okabletech.formstack.com/forms/soonerstart\\_assessments\\_and\\_at](https://okabletech.formstack.com/forms/soonerstart_assessments_and_at)

To report AT demonstrations and usage via Qualtrics App:

[https://osde.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_daGER6PYXiMG9Lv](https://osde.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_daGER6PYXiMG9Lv)

## **Funding for Assistive Technology**

Depending on the type of AT required, there are many funding sources available to the child including Medicaid, private insurances, and other public or private sources. When the Public and Private funding sources have been exhausted, SoonerStart is the payer of last resort.

### **Public & Private funding sources by age:**

[https://www.okabletech.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Funding-Chart2017\\_Public.pdf](https://www.okabletech.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Funding-Chart2017_Public.pdf)

### **Able Tech access to Public & Private funding sources with qualification criteria:**

<https://www.okabletech.org/resources/at-funding-guide/section-2-funding-strategy/>

If a SoonerStart team is unable to access external funding for assistive technology devices/services in a timely manner, then SoonerStart resources can be utilized. To access funding through SoonerStart the team must complete the following steps:

**Step 1.** Submit the **SoonerStart Assistive Technology Request (Appendix X)** to the Executive Director of SoonerStart Early Intervention, Special Education Services, Oklahoma State Department of Education.

**Step 2.** The Executive Director reviews the AT Request Form within ten working days. The documentation review is to insure that the IFSP team has provided adequate justification for the acquisition of the AT.

**Step 3.** The SoonerStart team is contacted within ten working days to request more information/documentation if necessary or to inform the team that the reviewed documentation is determined complete.

**Step 4.** Once the documentation has been reviewed and determined complete, acquisition of the equipment is coordinated through the SoonerStart Program and provided to the family in a timely manner.

In some circumstances, families may offer to donate assistive technology equipment to SoonerStart that is no longer being used by their child. All donations are subject to the Oklahoma State Department of Education's "Donation Solicitation and Acceptance Policy" which can be viewed at <http://ok.gov/sde/sponsorshipdonation> Donated AT may be delivered to ABLE Tech and they will use the equipment in the ABLE Tech Device Reuse Program.