

Unity School District - Board of Education

Board Policy 363.3

Technology ~~Concerns~~ for Students with Special Needs (Assistive Technology)

Last Revised 10/11/2022

POLICY STATEMENT

- ~~A. The Unity School District shall provide special education and related services designed to meet the unique needs of each student with a disability, based on his/her individualized education program (IEP), as required by law.~~
- ~~B. The term "related services" means transportation and such developmental, corrective and other supportive services as required for the student with a disability to benefit from special education. "Assistive technology devices and services" would clearly be a functional part of the services defined. An "assistive technology device" means 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 students with disabilities. "Assistive technology service" means any service that directly assists a student with a disability in the selection, acquisition or use of an assistive technology device. The term includes:~~
- ~~1. Evaluation of needs of a student with a disability, including a functional evaluation of the child's customary environment;~~
 - ~~2. Purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of assistive technology devices by students with disabilities;~~
 - ~~3. Coordinating and using other therapies, interventions, or services with assistive technology devices, such as those associated with existing education and rehabilitation plans and programs;~~
 - ~~4. Training or technical assistance for a child with a disability or, if appropriate, that child's family; and~~
 - ~~5. Training or technical assistance for professionals, employers, or others who provide services to, employ, or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of students with disabilities.~~
- ~~C. Those students having special needs but not requiring a formal IEP according to law, which may include but are not limited to migrant students, homeless students, students living with poverty, and English Language Learners, will also be considered for assistive technology devices and/or services.~~

POLICY PROCEDURE

- ~~A. A student's need for assistive technology shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. If the IEP team determines that a particular assistive technology item is required for the student to be provided a favorable benefit from his/her education program, the technology must be provided to implement the IEP.~~
- ~~B. Assistive technology may be provided as special education, related services, or supplemental aids and services for students with disabilities who are educated in regular classes.~~
- ~~C. The District is responsible for evaluation in areas in which assistive technology may be a factor.~~

Determination of need for assistive technology will be determined by the following criteria:

1. Identification of difficulty the student is experiencing and discussion of possible causes for the difficulty. This includes a review of existing information and data. During this review the IEP Team decides other information necessary to make an informed decision about the need for assistive technology.
2. Team members gather baseline data if existing data does not provide all needed information.
3. The team reviews the problem that is now clearly identified, generates possible solutions, and develops a trial plan of the solutions.
4. During a specified time frame, the trials are completed and data is collected.
5. The team analyzes new data and makes decisions about the longer term use or permanent acquisition of one or more assistive technology tools.
6. If specific assistive technology is identified as being needed, it is written in the student's IEP.

D. Those students having special needs but not requiring a formal IEP according to law, which may include, but are not limited to migrant students, homeless students, students living with poverty, and English Language Learners, will also be considered for assistive technology devices and/or services on a case by case basis to be determined by the following criteria:

1. Identification of difficulty the student is experiencing and discussion of possible causes for the difficulty by individuals or a team comprised of classroom or special education teacher, guidance counselor, librarian, district technology coordinator, and/or building principal. This includes a review of existing information and data. During this review a team decides other information necessary to make an informed decision about the necessity for assistive technology.
2. Team members gather baseline data if existing data does not provide all needed information.
3. The team reviews the problem that is now clearly identified, generates possible solutions, and develops a trial plan of the solutions.
4. During a specified time frame, the trials are completed and data is collected.
5. The team analyzes new data and makes decisions about the longer term use or permanent acquisition of one or assistive technology tools.
6. If specific assistive technology is identified as being needed, a request is made of the district technology coordinator for consideration and procurement.

LEGAL REF.: Chapter 115, subchapter V Wisconsin Statutes
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997

The District recognizes that students with disabilities and other students with special needs may require assistive technology devices and/or services to help them access and benefit from their educational program and achieve related standards and goals.

The District shall provide students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) with special education and related services, based on their individualized education programs (IEP), as required by law. A student's need for assistive technology shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. If the student's IEP team determines that a particular assistive technology device and/or service is needed in order

for the student to benefit from his/her education program, it may be included in the student's IEP.

For purposes of this policy and its implementation with respect to students with disabilities under the IDEA, an "assistive technology device" means any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of students with disabilities. "Assistive technology service" means any service that directly assists a student with a disability in the selection, acquisition or use of an assistive technology device.