Comprehensive Assistive Technology Evaluation Overview

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Our assistive technology evaluation is designed to supplement the overall educational plan for special needs students. Our primary goal is to identify what type or combination of assistive technology will be the most appropriate for the needs of the student.

Our process:

Our process begins by gathering information about the student. This will help us to identify the most appropriate staff member to conduct the evaluation as well as determine the optimum type of hardware and software we will need to prepare for the evaluation. If available, medical and eye reports, a functional low vision exam report, or the most recent previous IEP are helpful to provide us with a complete understanding of your student.

Ultimately, our evaluation is based on the tasks that you have identified and wish to have addressed. We have the ability to create a customized solution for a wide variety of needs. The general categories of problems we can address and solve are tasks such as: accessing print, distance viewing within the classroom, access and the use of computers & iPads, homework completion, and assessing the student's current adaptive technology and training.

We will observe the students actual classroom or similar environment, with the classroom materials the student is currently using.

In addition to the reports mentioned above, we will also be gathering the following information:

- What assistive technology is currently being utilized and to what effect?
- Does the student have difficulty seeing the following?
  - Worksheets
  - Text and Independent reading books
  - Tests and quizzes
  - Computers
  - Whiteboard/Blackboard
  - Art Projects
- How important are computer skills for the student?
- What computing platform does the student use at school and at home?
- Is the student using a computer frequently?
- Is there assistive technology on the computer? If so, what is it? And is it effective?

What you can expect from us:

We will review and make note of all materials and reports provided in advance of the evaluation. We strongly encourage e-mail and phone conversations with other professionals and/or family members who will be present at the evaluation to clarify and discuss expectations. Before we show up for the evaluation, we will have identified which products and software might be the most appropriate for the student to experiment with.

The student will have the opportunity to try several different types of equipment. We will conduct the evaluation in any room or combination of rooms as determined by the TVI or other coordinating party.

We will conduct a short meeting with all parties involved immediately before and after the evaluation to discuss the process, specifics of what will be shown and review results.

What we will deliver:

We will provide a detailed report, including our recommendation of products and services for the student. The solution will be based on the information gathered, identified problems, and observations from the evaluation itself. The report is not a scientific or medical document, rather, it is the synthesis of the needs and requirements of the student with the features and capabilities of the hardware or software solutions. **It is important to note - while New England Low Vision represents nearly 100% of key blindness and low vision suppliers, if a student or client needs a product that we do not represent, all Technology Specialists are mandated to recommend the best technology solution for the student / client regardless of whether or not we can provide the product.**

Sample Report outline:

- ✓ Meeting Date
- ✓ Meeting Location
- ✓ Attendee(s)
- ✓ Contact Information for our firm and the evaluator.
- ✓ The areas of focus covered with corresponding technology used.
- ✓ How the technology functioned to solve the task.
- ✓ The students results in working with the technology.
- ✓ How well the student understood the concept of the task, the product, and the solution.
- ✓ How quickly will the student become proficient with the device.
- ✓ Any training recommended including the reasoning for why and how much.
- ✓ Non-tech or low tech solutions to problems including explanations regarding why certain products are recommended.