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RESOURCE MEMO #FN3

Date: May 5, 2005
RE: Assistive Technology for Children

Make sure the IEP includes the following considerations:

1. If covered by Medicaid, apply there first.
2. If another entity (Medicaid, insurance, UCPAGI, etc.) pays a portion of the cost of the device, it belongs to the student.
3. If the IEP determines that the child needs to take the device home, then the school must permit this - even if the school is the purchaser.
4. Make sure the evaluation is appropriate and complete - performed by trained personnel.
5. Make sure that teachers and other personnel who assist the child are trained on the use of the device.
6. Identifying the party(ies) responsible for payment of insurance coverage should be included in the IEP.
7. A good trial period for testing the appropriateness of the device is a minimum of two weeks.
8. Remember: any assistive technology loan is not a grant - it must be paid back (often at a very low interest rate.)
9. If computer services/hardware/software are provided to non-disabled students, the cost of similar equipment/devices must be made available to special education students as part of the general education budget.
10. If there is conflict with the school about the purchase of assistive technology, attempt to resolve the differences before resorting to due process. It's advisable to bring a trained advocate (e.g. another parent, a professional who know the child, etc.) instead of a lawyer to the mediation (unless you know that the school's attorney will be present.)
11. Develop a funding strategy by:
 - a. research technology and other funding options for all components
 - b. gather documentation of family income
 - c. identify people who can help you with funding process (parent support groups, relatives, etc.)
 - d. keep written records of all AT-related information in one place

12. Use language pertinent to the funding source:
 - a. medical (Medicaid, insurance, etc.) - stress “therapeutic nature” of need and “medical necessity” for the device
 - b. educational - stress “academic achievement” and “educational goals”
 - c. vocational - stress “self-sufficiency” goals and potential

Other Resources

1. **Family Information Guide to Assistive Technology**
Booklet by J. Hess, A.M. Gutierrez, J. Peters, A. Cerreta (2005)

Can be accessed online, in both pdf and html formats at: www.fctd.info
To order print copies, contact:
Family Center on Technology & Disability
Academy for Educational Development
1825 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20009 Phone: (202) 884-8068
2. **Assistive Technology: Legal Issues for Students with Disabilities and Their Schools**
Article by Janice Neibaur Day and Dixie Snow Huefner, Journal of Special Education (2003) <http://jset.univ.edu/18.2/day/first.html>
3. **Funding Assistive Technology with Medicaid**
Article from Vermont Parent Information Center (2001)
http://vtpic.com/downloads/at_fund_medicaid.pdf
4. **Funding Assistive Technology**
Article from Vermont Parent Information Center (2001)
http://vtpic.com/downloads/at_funding.pdf
5. **The Public Schools’ Special Education System as an Assistive Technology Funding Source: The Cutting Edge**
Article by Ronald Hager from Neighborhood Legal Services (2003)
<http://www.nis.org/specedat.htm>
6. **Informed Consumer’s Guide to Funding Assistive Technology**
Article by Anjanette Daigle, Stephen Lowe, Katherine Belknap and Lynn Halverson
Abledata (2001)
http://www.abledata.com/abledata_docs/funding.htm
7. **AT Funding Issues**
Article in ATSTAR (2002)
http://www.atstar.org/info_funding.html
8. **Nine Steps to Funding**
By The South Carolina Assistive Technology Project (2002)
<http://www.tumbleforms.com/bergeron/9steptofun.html>

9. **Funding for Assistive Technology**
Fact Sheet by South Carolina Assistive Technology Project (2000)
<http://www.sc.edu/scatp/fundingfact.htm>
10. **Funding Tips**
Fact Sheet by Job Accommodation Network (2000)
<http://www.jan.wvu.edu/links/Funding/GeneralInfo.html>
11. **Medicaid, Assistive Technology and the Courts**
AT Advocate Newsletter (2003)
<http://www.nls.org/av/spring03.htm>

Web-sites and Resources from other states

1. **Iowa Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT)**
<http://www.uiowa.edu/infotech/Funding.htm>
2. **Institute for Human Development**
Arizona Technology Access Program - North Arizona University
<http://www.nau.edu/ihd/aztap/factsheets.shtml>
3. **Assistive Technology and Rural Life**
Oklahoma ABLE Tech brochure (2004)
<http://okabletech.okstate.edu/pubs/atrural.html>
4. **Assistive Technology Partnership**
Lincoln, NE <http://www.nde.state.nc.us/ATP/>
5. **People Achieving Change Through Technology (PACTT)**
Rochester, MN <http://www.abcinc.org/pactt/>
6. **Wisconsin Assistive Technology Program (WisTech)**
Madison, WI <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/>
7. **North Caroline Assistive Technology Project (NCATP)**
Raleigh, NC <http://www.ncatp.org>
8. **Oklahoma Assistive Technology Center (OATC)**
Oklahoma City, OK <http://www.ah.ouhsc.edu/oatc/>
9. **New Hampshire Assistive Technology Partnership Project**
Concord, NH http://iod.unh.edu/projects/nh_assistive_technology.html
10. **Assistive Technology of Ohio**
Worthington, OH <http://www.atohio.org/>
11. **Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS)**
Richmond, VA <http://www.vats.org/>