Assistive Technology Evaluation Q&A

How to determine the need for an assistive technology evaluation?

In determining whether an assistive technology evaluation is needed, the IEP team should consider the following:

a. If the student has been receiving assistive technology services

An assistive technology reevaluation is not needed if the IEP team has already identified an assistive technology solution to address student's assistive technology needs through the assistive technology consideration process, and the following conditions as met:

- The student is already receiving assistive technology services.
- The new assistive technology recommendations were made based on the data collected during the implementation of the existing assistive technology services.
- The IEP team unanimously agrees that the newly identified solutions will meet the needs of the student.

The IEP team can document assistive technology in the IEP under Accommodations.

b. If the student has not been receiving assistive technology services

An assistive technology evaluation is required to determine the assistive technology needs and possible assistive technology services if at least one of the following conditions are met:

- The student is not currently receiving assistive technology services.
- The assistive technology solution is not known.
- An assistive technology solution is proposed, but the IEP team disagrees on whether the proposed assistive technology solution meets the student's needs.

The IEP team would be required to obtain parent consent to conduct the assistive technology evaluation.

When an assistive technology evaluation has been recommended, the team should consider the reasons for the assistive technology referral and invite the appropriate parties to the reevaluation review meeting based on the reason for the referral. Every assistive technology evaluation would not necessarily involve a school psychologist or additional assessments other than those related to assistive technology. The process, however, needs to be documented as a Reevaluation Review.

How to document an assistive technology reevaluation?

When completing the reevaluation review document in Enrich, information/existing data regarding student needs related to assistive technology should be added under ***Other/Miscellaneous***, "Yes" should be selected for additional data needed, and the other areas for assessment textbox completed. A parental consent for reevaluation form will be generated based on the areas requiring additional information. Parental consent must be obtained before any assessments (or trials) are completed.

It is likely in many instances the team would not need additional information in some areas, but all areas should be considered.

If the purpose of the reevaluation review is only to collect additional information, then the recommendation selected at the end of the document would be ***Consent Received (additional info only – no Eligibility Determination) – Evaluation***. This option will not reset the three-year reevaluation review/eligibility determination timeline. An appropriate PWN should be issued following the planning meeting.

How to document assistive technology trials?

If the IEP team determines during an assistive technology evaluation that assistive technology trials are needed, then the proposed assistive technology solutions should be documented in the IEP as accommodations.

If - after examining the data collected during the proposed assistive technology trials - the IEP team finds that the trials failed to determine an assistive technology solution to meet the student's identified assistive technology needs:

- New assistive technology solutions should be proposed/trialed.
- The IEP should be amended, and the accommodations changed to reflect the new proposed assistive technology trials.