

# Fall Professional Learning

for the English Language Arts College-  
and Career-Ready Standards



Morning Meeting

Day 2

# Concept organizer

- ◆ **Confirmations**
- ◆ **Misconceptions**
- ◆ **New Information**





**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**STATE DEPARTMENT**  
**OF EDUCATION**

**Division of Accountability**  
**Office of Special Education Services**  
**Assistive Technology Services**

# **Introduction to Assistive Technology**

*SC Department of Education*

*Assistive Technology Specialists*

*Mark Daniels; Madalina Tudora; Sara McKay*

# **What is Assistive Technology?**

**Assistive Technology (AT) includes a range of technologies, which enable people to build on their abilities and participate as fully as possible at home, school, work and in their community.**

# **What Does Assistive Technology Mean?**

**Assistive Technology is used to describe both products and services for people with special needs.**

# **Assistive Technology Products**

**The term “assistive technology device” means any item, piece of equipment, or product system (whether acquired off the shelf, modified, or customized) that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capability of an individual with a disability.**

# **Assistive Technology Services**

**The term “assistive technology service” means any service that directly assists a child with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.**

# Types of AT devices

AT may be organized into a system of low-tech, medium-tech and high-tech tools and strategies that **MATCH** a person's needs, abilities and tasks.

# Low-Tech

Refers to unsophisticated devices and largely non-electronic devices, many of which can be produced from available materials, such as:

- pencil grips
- book holders
- texture boards
- reading stands
- educational toys and games
- reading overlays
- rulers with grasps
- writing templates

# Mid-Tech

Includes items such as:

- **Go Talk**
- **Tech Talk**
- **Big Mac**
- **Cheap Talk**
- **Various software program**
- **Bookworm**
- **Livescribe recording pen**

# High-Tech

- **Devices involving the use of sophisticated communication and environmental control systems that are electronically based**

## **Includes:**

- **Dedicated Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC) Devices**
- **Eye Gaze Devices**

# Low-Tech vs High-Tech Considerations

## Low-tech solutions

- **Cost effective**
- **Easily integrated**

## High-tech solutions

- **Requires careful assessment (student has to be able to use the device)**
- **Requires specialist training, support and follow-up**

# Who can benefit from using AT?

## Examples:

- ◆ A student who struggles with reading might benefit from using a text to speech software program like Read and Write, Kurzweil, or WYNN.
- ◆ A student that has difficulty accessing a computer could benefit from using a switch and/or on-screen keyboard.
- ◆ A student that struggles communicating might benefit from using an AAC device (Dynavox, Prentke-Romich) and/or visual supports.

# Who Provides AT Services ?

AT services should be provided by a professional that has the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.

- AT services do NOT have to be provided by a **\*named\*** AT specialist.

# Issues Around Assistive Technology

- ◆ **Cost**
- ◆ **Follow-up**
- ◆ **Training of programs and devices**
- ◆ **Technical help and the ability to upload various software**
- ◆ **Level of support, loss and breakage**

# **SC Department of Education Assistive Technology Specialists (ATS)**

## **Mission**

**The mission of Assistive Technology Services (ATS) is to provide assistive technology support, training, consultation, equipment, and technical assistance to educators who teach students at risk of academic failure and students with disabilities.**

# **ATS SERVICES**

## **Professional Development**

- ◆ **Presentations, workshops, and trainings on assistive technology for districts and regions**
- ◆ **Training on conducting assistive technology evaluations and assessments for local staff**

# **ATS SERVICES**

## **Funding Assistance**

- ◆ **Identification of funding sources**
- ◆ **Research into grant opportunities**

# ATS Services

## Technical Assistance

- ◆ **Formation and support of school district AT teams**
- ◆ **Collaborative sessions with instructional technology specialists**
- ◆ **Recommendations on interventions for assisting students at risk of academic failure and students with disabilities**

# Contact Information

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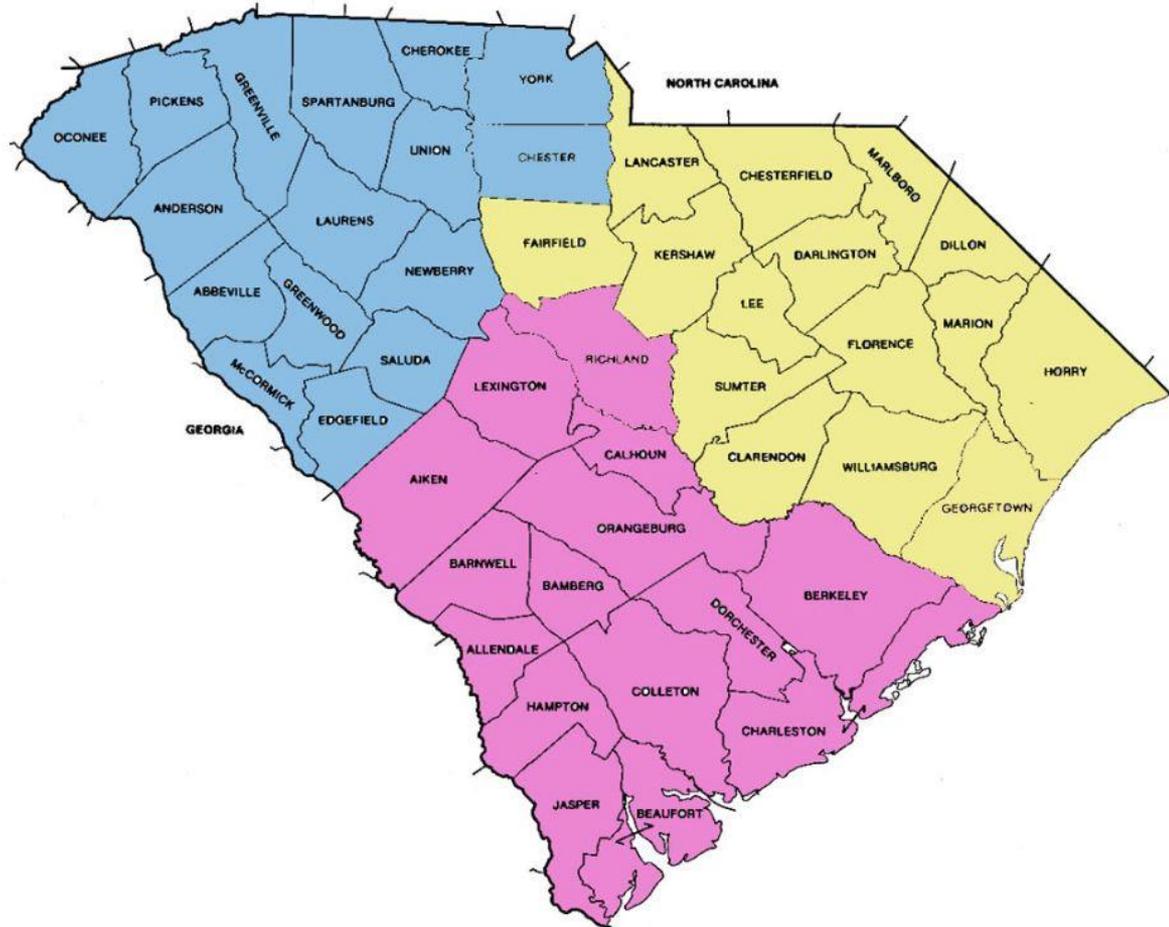
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# Breakout Rooms

| <b>Grade Bands</b>            | <b>Room Number</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Kindergarten – Grade 5</b> |                    |
| <b>Grades 6-8</b>             |                    |
| <b>Grades 9-12</b>            |                    |