

TEN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY REALITIES

- Reality #1** Determining when a device is needed for FAPE (free appropriate public education) is no easy task.
- Reality #2** There is no cookbook for including AT in an IEP.
- Reality #3** There is no IDEA exemption for personal use devices.
- Reality #4** The difference between "medically necessary" and "educationally necessary" is clear as mud.
- Reality #5** If it's in the IEP, the school **MUST** make sure the device is available and functioning properly . . . regardless of who paid for or owns the device (school, family, Medicaid. etc.)
- Reality #6** If you name a specific brand name device in an IEP, then that is the device the school is obligated to provide.
- Reality #7** Schools cannot limit AT to in-school only use . . . but not all devices available at school must go home.
- Reality #8** A computer is not the answer to every AT need.
- Reality #9** There is no magic wizard with all the AT expertise and certainly no AT credential that makes someone an expert in all areas of AT.
- Reality #10** AT is not going to go away or become any less complex . . . so get informed and comfortable with it as soon as possible.

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