Assistive Technology (AT) Resources

ESC State Leadership Function: Assistive Technology

Mission
Texas Assistive Technology Network (TATN) is working to ensure that students with disabilities receive assistive technology devices and services when needed to benefit from a free, appropriate public education. The TATN consists of representatives from each of the Texas Education Services Centers, and the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Region 4 Education Service Center (Region 4) in Houston, TX provides statewide leadership for the network. Through a comprehensive planning process, the TATN has developed a framework for statewide collaboration. Priorities in professional development and technical assistance focus on providing training, products and services that: - build district capacity in assistive technology knowledge and skills - promote strategies for building the literacy skills of all students, and - are aligned with statewide literacy initiatives.

Welcome to TATN
Assistive technology enables students with disabilities to access the curriculum, increase independence and participate actively in education and life activities. Thank you for visiting our site today and we hope you find the resources you need to successfully include technology devices and services for your schools.
http://www.texasat.net/

Training Modules Online
Assistive Technology in Texas Schools Series
Each module in the Assistive Technology in Texas Schools Series was designed for use by regional education service centers and district staff responsible for assistive technology (AT) capacity-building in the state of Texas. The modules can be used to build knowledge and skills in AT service delivery at various levels throughout the state education system. The content of each module directly supports the legal mandate of IDEA 2004 that requires that AT devices and services be provided to a student with disabilities if required as a part of the student’s FreeAppropriate Public Education (FAPE).

These modules can also be used as a self-study tool for those wishing to gain more knowledge of assistive technology in the various areas (see each module topic to the left).
http://www.texasat.net/default.aspx?name=trainmod.home

Assistive Technology Collaborative

Online community which connects assistive technology specialists to share and discuss implementation practices, new ideas and funding.
http://atcollective.com/

Abilities Connection
The mission of Ability Connection Texas is to provide a full range of services for people with physical and intellectual disabilities as they strive to achieve their highest level of independence
http://www.abilityconnectiontexas.org/

OCALI
Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence Disabilities offers a variety of resources and training modules in the areas of autism, intellectual disabilities, Universal Design for Learning, AT, and transition.
http://ocali.org/

Region 10 ESC
Earn 3 CEUs for $30! Assistive Technology for Visual Impairments ONLINE COURSE - take it anytime from anywhere, at your own pace! Excellent course for educators, AT Teams, and parents.
Texas Technology Access Project - UT Austin
The Texas Technology Access Program leads the state's efforts to carry out the federal Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended (P.L. 108-364). They offer device demonstrations, device loans, recycle & reuse program, financial loan program and information.
http://techaccess.edb.utexas.edu/

Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative
State-funded project to help schools improve their assistive technology services. Includes resources, lending library information, and related links.
http://wati.org/


The Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology (QIAT)
The Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology (QIAT) includes the work done to date to develop a comprehensive set of quality indicators for effective assistive technology services by school districts.
http://natri.uky.edu/assoc_projects/qiat/

Closing The Gap
Closing The Gap, Inc. provides assistive technology resources and training opportunities through its bimonthly magazine, webinars and annual international conference.
http://www.closingthegap.com/about_us.lasso

Technology and Media Division of the Council for Exceptional Children
The purpose of TAM is to support educational participation and improved results for individuals with disabilities and diverse learning needs through the selection, acquisition, and use of technology. The secondary purpose is to provide services to members and other units of CEC, to federal, state, and local education agencies, and to business and industry regarding the current and future uses of technology and media with individuals with exceptionalities.
http://www.tamcec.org/

NATE -- the National Assistive Technology in Education Network
-- brings together information from the many fields and disciplines that are involved in assistive technology services in educational settings. We provide that information in a cohesive, integrated manner, so that people from all disciplines can access it. We promote and encourage increased collaboration between people from different disciplines at the local team level and at the larger regional and national levels.
http://www.natenetwork.org/

Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) Resources

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Connecting Young Kids (YAACK)
Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Connecting Young Kids (YAACK) is a website that covers issues related to AAC and young children. Its purpose is to provide information and guidance to families, teachers, speech/language pathologists and anyone else who is involved with a child with special communication needs. It is intended to be easy to understand and practical, and to cover a wide range of topics dealing with AAC and AAC-related issues of children at various ages and stages of communication ability, and with different strengths, disabilities and learning characteristics.
http://aac.unl.edu/yaack/
International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC)
The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) works to improve the lives of children and adults who use AAC. ISAAC’s vision is that AAC will be recognized, valued and used throughout the world. ISAAC’s mission is to promote the best possible communication for people with complex communication needs. Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) helps millions worldwide who cannot rely on their natural speech to communicate.
https://www.isaac-online.org/english/home/

AAC Institute
We are a not-for-profit, charitable organization dedicated to the most effective communication for people who rely on augmentative and alternative communication (AAC).
http://www.aacinstitute.org/

Augmentative and Alternative Communication Centers
Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) strategies assist people with severe communication disabilities to participate more fully in their social roles including interpersonal interaction, learning, education, community activities, employment, volunteerism, care management, and so on. This AAC website is designed to provide access to a wide range of information and resources related to the AAC effort. It is maintained by the Barkley AAC Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
http://aac.unl.edu/

AAC-RERC
The AAC-RERC is a Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center that functions as a collaborative research group dedicated to the development of effective AAC technology. Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) refers to ways (other than speech) that are used to send a message from one person to another.
http://aac-rerc.psu.edu/

Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area
The Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area consists of a group of caring individuals, educators, therapists and involved community members whose passion and commitment is to serve families who have members born with Down syndrome. This link is for the tools specific to AAC.
http://www.dsconnection.org/augmentative-alternative-communication.php

Everyone Communicates
As our name indicates, we believe that everyone communicates, in one way or another. We also believe that communication is a basic need in life. When an individual does not have fluent, natural speech, it is urgent that other methods of communication, often called augmentative or alternative communication (AAC), be explored exhaustively.
http://www.everyonecommunicates.org/aacintro.html