



# Helping *Your* Administrators Understand the Important Role *They* Play in AT

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# Administrator's Role

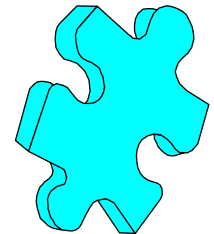
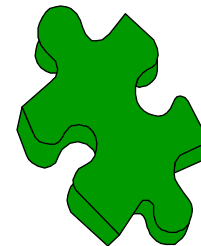
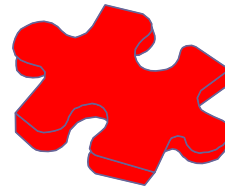
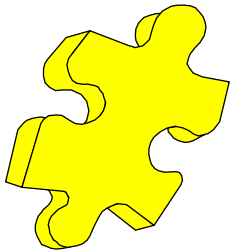
- What is the administrator's role in assistive technology services?





# It is NOT—

- Expert about AT
- Coordinator of AT Services
- Independent decision maker

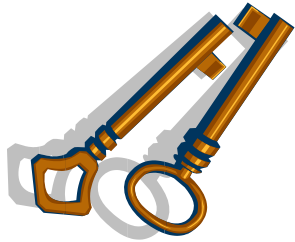




## And yet—

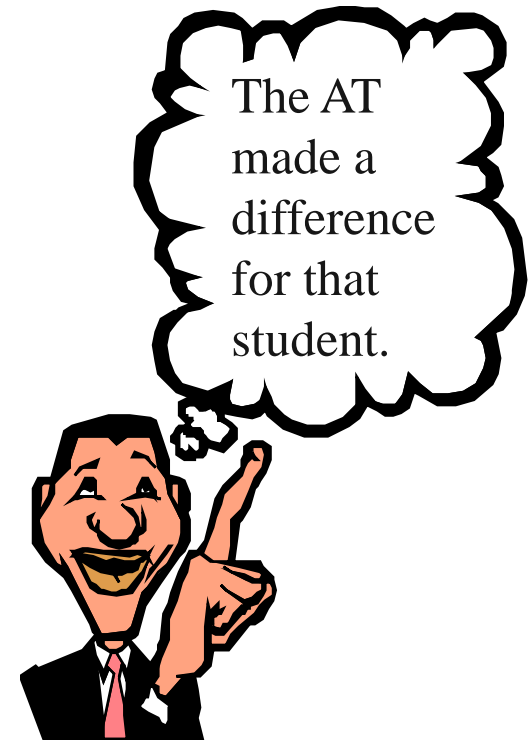
- As a Leader, the administrator has a very powerful role:
  - Developing a vision for AT use
  - Creating a culture where AT use is valued
  - Holding all staff accountable to implement AT that is in the IEP
  - Encouraging collaboration, reflection, and pursuit of training about AT





# So, what are we asking?

- No new tasks!
- Simply to become sufficiently aware of AT and its importance, to include it in the tasks they already do.
- To make it part of their vision of the tools and strategies available to help students.
- To understand that only they can ensure implementation.



# Typical Administrative Roles

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- Leadership
- Supervision
- Management
- Program Improvement





# Know what AT is-

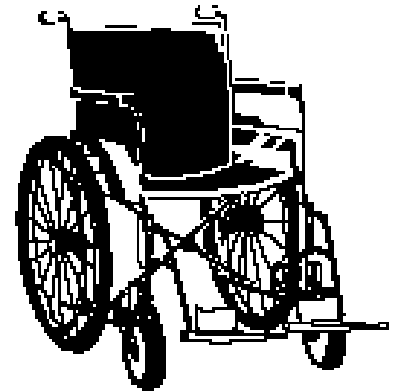
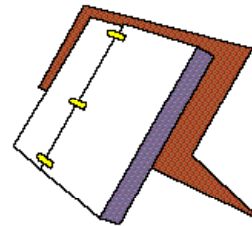
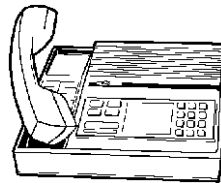
- Legal definition
- What it means
- Various types of AT
- What to look for in classrooms





# Legal definition:

Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to **increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities** of children with disabilities.





# Learning about AT

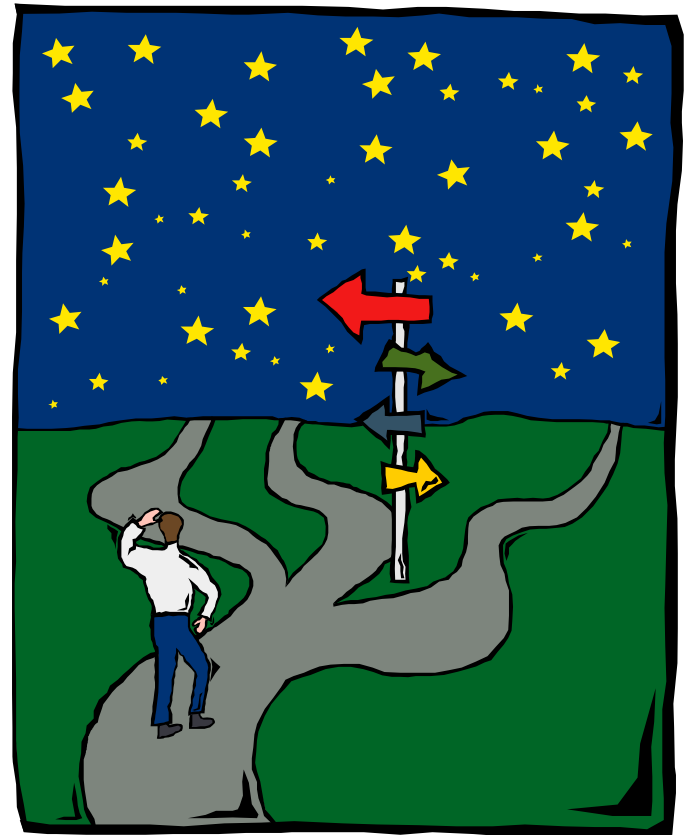
- AT Consideration Resource Guide from the Georgia Project for Assistive Technology = <http://www.gpat.org/resources.aspx?PageReq=GPATConsider>
- Resource Guide-[www.wati.org](http://www.wati.org)
- Tech Matrix – [www.techmatrix.org](http://www.techmatrix.org)
- MATN Match-Up – coming soon





# Developing vision

- How can AT help struggling students perform better?
- How does AT fit into overall school improvement goals?
- What is each person's role in AT use?





## Know that Daily Use is Critical

Assistive technology is only effective when used on a daily basis to accomplish meaningful tasks.





# Supervision

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- Know who has AT in their IEP.
- Ask how AT implementation is going.
- Look for its use during “Walk throughs”.
- Seek staff who are knowledgeable about and comfortable with technology.
- Highlight successes.
- Address AT as part of staff evaluation.

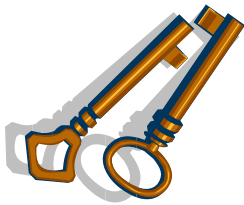


## Know the Importance of Staff Participation in Decisions

No sustainable change can be accomplished without core people struggling through the anxieties of complex problem solving toward a shared solution.

- Fullan (2003)





# Management

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- Ensure written guidelines are developed and widely disseminated.
- Create a climate of collaboration.
- Ensure AT services are provided in the most cost effective and efficient manner.





## Areas of concern to Administrators

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- Adequate yearly progress
- Budget
- Return on investment
- Fair and ethical practices
- Compliance with federal and state laws



# What Can You Do?

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- Provide simple info on what AT is
- Provide a list of which student's have AT in their IEP
- Make connection between his/her tech use and student's need for AT
- Highlight successful AT use and how it is making a difference
- Relate to areas of concern



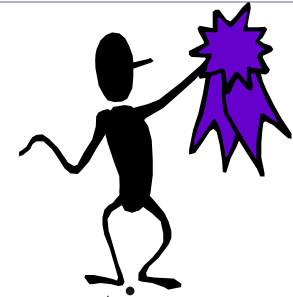
## When you train-

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- Training for administrators must include:
  - Real life experiences
  - Realistic activities
  - Opportunities for reflection
  - ‘Look fors’ to use



## Evidence your Administrator values AT



- Chooses to mention it
- Asks teachers to share at staff meetings
- Takes time to talk to students who use AT
- Uses technology personally
- Includes AT in technology plan
- Relates AT to overall school goals



# Quality indicators for Administrative Support

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School has:



- Written procedural guidelines to ensure equitable access to AT
- Broadly disseminated policies and procedures
- Job descriptions that include responsibilities for AT



## And....

- Employs personnel with needed competencies to provide AT
- Includes AT in tech planning and budgeting
- Provides opportunities for ongoing learning about AT
- A systematic procedure to evaluate AT services



» [www.qiat.org](http://www.qiat.org)



# Power of vision

A vision without a task is  
but a dream. A task without  
a vision is drudgery.

A vision with a task is the  
hope of the world.



Inscription in a church  
Sussex, England, 1730