



## **Assistive Technology and Procedures Notice Lindley Academy Charter School**

At Lindley Academy Charter School, we are committed to ensuring that all students have access to the tools and supports they need to succeed. In alignment with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), we recognize the importance of assistive technology (AT) in supporting the functional capabilities and educational progress of students with disabilities

### **Definition of Assistive Technology**

Assistive technology (AT) includes any item, piece of equipment, or product system—whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized—that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a student with a disability.

Assistive technology services refer to any service that directly assists a student in the selection, acquisition, or use of such devices. These services may include:

- Evaluating the needs of the student
- Coordinating with educational staff and families
- Customizing, maintaining, and repairing devices
- Training students, families, and staff on proper usage

### **Procedures for Identifying AT Needs**

#### **1. Referral and Evaluation**

A student's need for AT is typically identified through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 planning process. Team members, including educators, specialists, and families, may recommend an AT evaluation.

#### **2. Assessment Process**

If an AT evaluation is warranted, it will be conducted by qualified professionals. The assessment considers the student's abilities, environment, tasks, and tools required for participation in the curriculum.

#### **3. Implementation and Training**

Once an AT device or service is determined necessary, the school will provide appropriate training and support to the student, staff, and family members.

#### **4. Monitoring and Review**

The effectiveness of AT tools and services will be monitored and reviewed regularly. Adjustments will be made as needed to ensure continued alignment with the student's educational goals.

### **IEP Team Responsibilities**

The IEP team is responsible for determining whether an assistive technology device and/or service is necessary for the student to access FAPE. The focus must remain on educational benefit—not the technology itself.

If assistive technology is required, the IEP must clearly state:



- The types of devices (e.g., no-tech, low-tech, high-tech)
- The scope of services (e.g., training, maintenance, programming, repairs)
- The amount, frequency, and duration of services

AT services may not be delayed or made contingent upon approvals from external entities (e.g., PaTTAN, Intermediate Units, Medical Assistance). The IEP must also specify if devices or services are needed during extended school year (ESY) periods.

### **Timelines and Implementation**

All legal timelines applicable to evaluations and IEP implementation also apply to assistive technology:

- **Initial evaluations** must be completed within **60 calendar days** of receiving parental consent.
- **IEP development** must occur within **30 school days** of determining eligibility.
- **Implementation of AT services or devices** must begin within **10 school days** of the IEP finalization.

If a delay in equipment delivery is anticipated, the school must take steps to secure loaner or leased equipment to avoid disruption to FAPE.

Assessments must not be used to delay the timely provision of required AT.

### **School Responsibility**

Lindley Academy Charter School is fully responsible for:

- Providing all AT services and devices identified in a student's IEP without delay
- Ensuring devices are functional and promptly repaired
- Maintaining all components necessary for the devices to work effectively

The school may not delay provision of AT due to:

- Pending Medical Assistance (MA) funding
- Requests for families to pursue external funding independently

### **Accessible Instructional Materials**

Pursuant to IDEA 2004 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the school must ensure that students with disabilities have access to instructional materials in accessible formats at the same time as their peers. This includes the provision of necessary assistive technology.

### **Contracted Support Services for IEP Teams**

Resources available to support IEP teams in selecting or trialing AT include:

- **Elevate Health:** Contracted agency provider for Augmented and Alternative Communication (AAC) evaluation, support, and services.
- **CIhear Solutions LLC:** Contracted agent provider for hearing evaluation, support, and services.
- **Overbrook School for the Blind:** Contracted provider for vision support, evaluation, and services.



- **PaTTAN Short-Term Loan (STL) Program:** Offers a range of AT devices for temporary use and evaluation.
- **TechOWL (Technology for Our Whole Lives):** A statewide program providing AT loans to Pennsylvanians with disabilities.
- 22 Pa. Code § 711.41, § 711.45

### **I Device Acquisition and Maintenance**

Hearing aids, external components of surgically implanted devices, AAC, and vision support devices, as required by students' IEPs, will be maintained by trained personnel. Devices will be acquired in accordance with IEP timelines and determinations.