

# Accessibility & Assistive Technology

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# Objectives

- Learn about accessibility and assistive technology from multiple people
- Identify types of assistive technology
- Learn about supporting varying learners through assistive technology services
- Benefits and Barriers to Artificial Intelligence (with AT)
- Steps to creating a plan for assistive technology support
- Learning about resources and professional development

# Definitions

- Accessibility
- Artificial Intelligence
- Assistive Technology
- SETT Framework
- Technology
- Transdisciplinary Teams

# Reasons Why This Topic is Important

- Accessibility vs AT
- AT can promote independence, inclusion, and positive life outcomes
- Many professionals and service providers lack knowledge and skills of the effective use of AT
- AT vs AI
- Presume competence

**"Presume Potential"**

**❌**

- Assuming specific abilities
- Providing intervention without thoughtful assessment
- Practicing outside the evidence base
- Wishful thinking or fantasy

**✅**

- **INCLUSION!**
- Believing that learning and growth is possible for all
- Providing access to robust supports and instruction
- Focusing on teaching and providing enriching experiences
- Accepting what a learner is able to do now and partnering for growth
- Ongoing dynamic assessment to increase understanding, then adjusting teaching and expectations as needed.
- Emphasizing and building on strengths
- Focusing on personalized milestones and trajectory over developmental or standardized expectations
- Essential for maximizing outcomes for all learners, including those who use AAC!

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The infographic features a green background with two white rounded rectangular boxes. The left box is marked with a large red 'X' and contains a list of negative practices. The right box is marked with a large green checkmark and contains a list of positive, inclusive practices. At the bottom, a cartoon illustration of a woman with brown hair is pointing her right index finger upwards. The text 'AAC COACH' is in the bottom left corner and '@the.aac.coach' is in the bottom right corner.

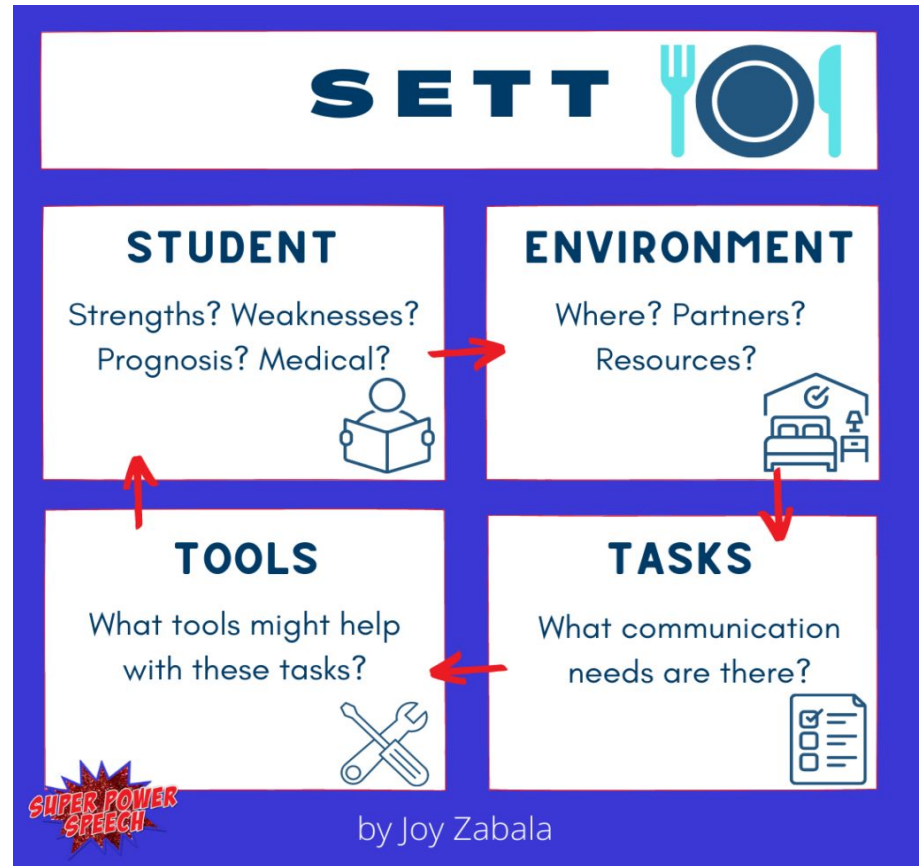
# Steps for Assistive Technology Use and Service

- AT assessment and data collection (formal, informal, data collection)
- Work collaboratively with professionals, the learner, and family
- Create a plan with measurable goals that involve the learner and family

## [AT Decision-Making Tool By OCALI](#)

# SETT Framework

A collaborative process that guides teams in selecting, implementing, and evaluating AT.



# QUALITY INDICATORS FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (QIAT)

QIAT is a national association devoted to improving the quality of assistive technology services in schools. They offer the QIAT Community a gateway to information including:

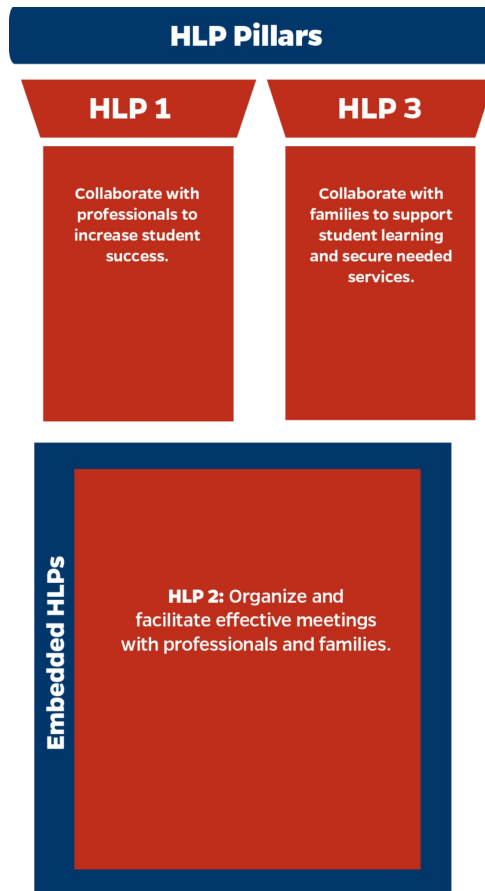
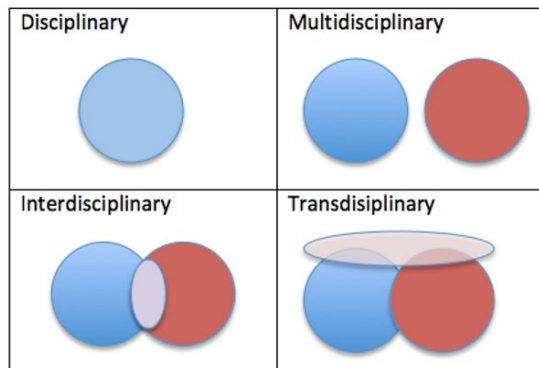
- Quality Indicators, Intent Statements, and Matrices
- Resources including QIAT in Action and the Resource Bank for sharing resources
- The QIAT List and searchable archives
- Announcement



# Transdisciplinary Teams

**Collaboration** serves as the first domain in the updated *High-Leverage Practices for Students with Disabilities*.

*Transdisciplinary Teams* offer a holistic approach or more coordinated person-centered services.





# AT Modules: Overview & Interventions

Type	Definition	Examples
Low-tech	Devices that are readily available, inexpensive, and typically do not require batteries or electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Specialized rubber pencil grip</li> <li>•Page holder</li> <li>•Modified scissors</li> </ul>
Mid-tech	Devices that are usually digital and may require batteries or another power source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Calculator</li> <li>•Audio book</li> <li>•Digital recorder</li> </ul>
High-tech	Devices that are typically computer-based, likely to have sophisticated features, and can be tailored to the specific needs of an individual student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Tablet</li> <li>•Screen reader</li> <li>•Voice recognition software</li> </ul>



# AT Modules: Overview & Interventions

- Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC)
- Technology-Aided Instruction & Intervention (TAII)



# Contextualizing AT Usage

Before completing the activity, you may need to think about:

- Cost and access to AT tools (e.g., high tech)
- Immediate needs (e.g., mobility, communication, health/sensory [hearing, vision])
- Education context (early childhood, primary grades, secondary)
- Education background (attendance, numeracy/literacy skills)

# Resources

[Accessibility and AT Resource Folder](#) (DISES Curated List of resources and tools)

[OCALI AT Consideration Resources](#)

[The SETT Framework](#): Minnesota Guide to Assistive Technology

- Zabala's [SETT Scaffolded Considerations Form](#)

[The QIAT website Resources](#)

IRIS Module and Resources on AT

- [Assistive Technology: An Overview](#)

[National Center on Accessible Educational Materials](#)

[Assistive Technology Mega Collection](#)



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