

North Carolina Assistive Technology Program

AT: Tools For Life

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History

- Technology-related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988 (Tech Act).
- In 1998, Congress re-authorized this legislation as the Assistive Technology Act of 1998.
- The definition of AT devices and services were added to the IDEA by the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1990.
- IDEA 1997 and 2004 with emphasis on AT.

Assistive Technology Device

“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 individuals with disabilities.”

20 U.S.C. 1401[25]

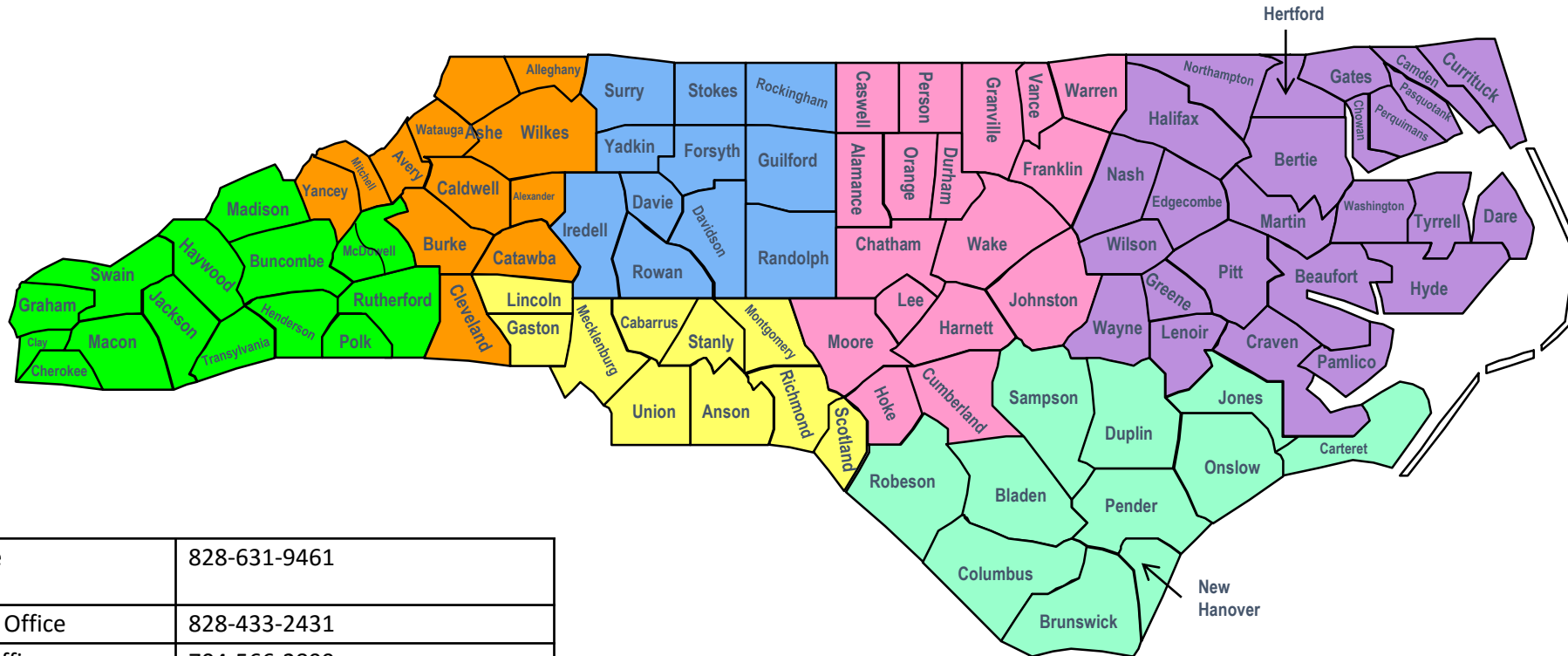
Assistive Technology Service

“Any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an Assistive Technology device.”

20 U.S.C. 1401[25]

North Carolina

Assistive Technology Centers



	Sylva AT Office	828-631-9461
	Morganton AT Office	828-433-2431
	Charlotte AT Office	704-566-2899
	Winston Salem AT Office	336-716-8030
	Greensboro AT Office	336-487-0550
	Raleigh AT Office	919-859-8360
	LCI – Sanford AT Office	919-775-3439 Ext. 221
	Greenville AT Office	252-830-8575 Ext. 204
	Wilmington AT Office	910-251-7078

Free Services

- Device Demonstrations
- Device Loans:
 - ✓ Short term loans (2 weeks)
 - ✓ Open-ended loans
- Device Reutilization
- Public Awareness



- Access to previously owned devices
- Connects individuals with devices to someone who needs the device
- List of devices that are available for sale or donation

www.ncexchange.org

Fee-Based Services

- AT Assessment (\$575.00)
- AAC Assessment (\$575.00)
- Consultation Services/Training (\$125.00 per hour)

Make a Referral- (Fee -Based Services)

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/vocational-rehabilitation-services/north-carolina-assistive-technology-program>

- Click on “make a referral”
- Need: referral form, supporting documents, authorization for payment
- Questions:
919-855-3564 or atintake@dhhs.nc.gov
919-715-1776:Fax

High Tech vs. Low Tech

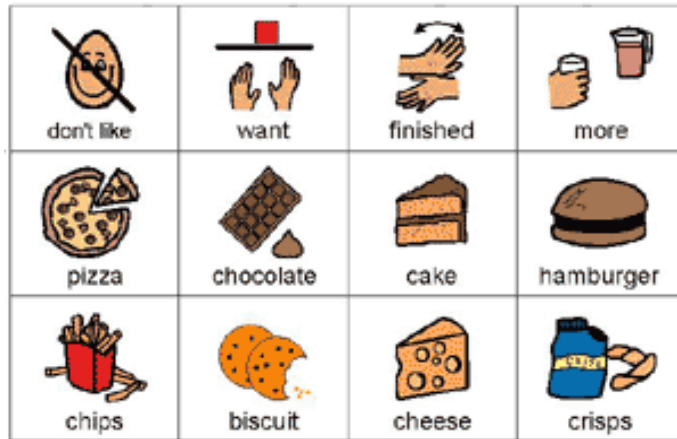


Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

“Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) includes all forms of communication (other than oral speech) that are used to express thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas. We all use AAC when we make facial expressions or gestures, use symbols or pictures, or write.”

1997-2012 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Low Tech AAC



Communication Board



Step-by-Step



Go Talk 4

High Tech AAC

- Speech Generating Devices (SGD)
- Computer based or electronic devices requiring a power source



DynaVox VMAX

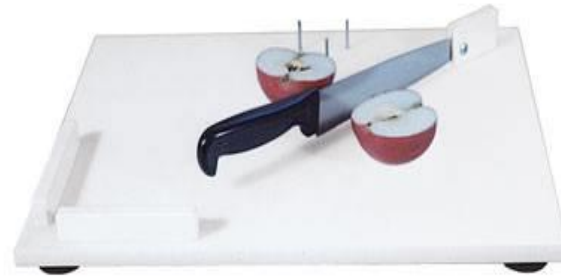


Dynawrite

Eating and Food Preparation

- Plates with rim
- Eating Smock
- 2 Handed cups
- Pizza Cutter in place of knife
- One Handed cutting board
- Adapted Eating Utensils

Lifeware spoon



Dressing

- Long handled shoe horn
- Elastic Shoe laces
- Leg lifter
- Button/Zipper Aid
- Adapt Clothes
 - Velcro in place of buttons
 - Snaps in place of buttons
- Button/Zipper Aid



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUbkWb0TmFw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1byAvzvcbA>



Car Safety

Car Caddie



Swivel Cushion



Gas Cap Turn

Magnification

Zoomax Snow 7 HD

- 7-inch widescreen display
- Portable HD CCTV video magnifier
- Provide both up-close and distance viewing



Home Management/Safety



Bed Cane



Couch Cane



Memory/Organization

- Magnetic message reminders
- Erasable message board
- Post weekly calendars in place of monthly



Where can you buy these items?

- Drug stores/Medical Supply Stores/Craft stores
- Home improvement centers
- On-line resources:

www.maxiaids.com

www.elderstore.com

www.lssproducts.com (visual/hard of hearing aids)

<http://www.magnaready.com/shop/> -Former NC State Coach

Possible Funding Sources

Medicaid and AT

- Appropriate for use in the home
- Enrolled Medicaid DME provider
- Medicaid Certificate of Medical Necessity and Prior Approval (CMN/PA) signed by physician

Medicaid and AAC

- The Augmentative Communication *evaluation* is covered by regular Medicaid.
- An AAC device must be a **DEDICATED** Speech Generating Device.

➤ NCATP cannot evaluate age 21 years and older

➤ Speech Language Pathologist must be connected to a medical model

Medicaid Waiver and AAC

- CAP-C : Community Alternative Program for Medically Fragile Children
www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/services/capc.htm
- NC Innovations: Community Alternative Program for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities / Developmental Disabilities
 - A list of LME/MCOs can be found at www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/lme/LME-Contact-Info.html.
 - More information about the N.C. Innovations Waiver can be found at www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/lme/Innovations.html.
- CAP-DA: Community Alternative Program for Disabled Adults
www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/services/capda.htm

Medicare and AAC

- Medicare covers Speech Generating Devices under Medicare B
 - If these devices are modified so that they are DEDICATED to run only AAC software, they are covered.
 - If the person resides in a skilled nursing facility, SGDs aren't covered.

Private Funding

➤ Church Groups

- Many churches have small amounts (\$100-\$200) set aside to social outreach requests. Contact may be through the individual church or through the local ministerial associations.

➤ Civic Groups

- Civic groups have targeted giving. The local public library information and referral desk is a great resource to identify the groups and contact information.

The NC Statewide GREAT Conference

When: October 18th – October 20th

Where: Hilton Wilmington Riverside
Wilmington, NC

**FREE Exhibit Hall on Thursday
October 19th**



Information at www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/vocational-rehabilitation-services/north-carolina-assistive-technology-program

and www.ncrehab.org