WISD Assistive Technology Decision-Making Process

When the individualized education program (IEP) team decides that new assistive technology (AT) may help a student access the curriculum and help meet their goals, but the team is unsure of what that AT may be, an Assistive Technology Decision-Making Process (ATDMP) should be initiated. This process is based on best practices and "Quality Indicators for Assessment of Assistive Technology Needs" (QIAT Consortium, updated 2014). The ATDMP occurs outside the IEP meeting, may take place any time during the school year, and is an on-going process.

An assistive technology consultant or related services provider (e.g., speech pathologist, occupational therapist, teacher consultant) will usually gather the assessment team (Form 1: Beginning the Process) and lead this assessment. This team should include members who have the collective knowledge and skills needed to determine possible AT solutions that address the needs and abilities of the student, educational goals, and related activities. The family and student, whenever possible, are active members of this team.

The team begins by describing the student's abilities and needs, determining the task(s) the student needs to accomplish, reviewing what has already been tried, and generating possible AT solutions (Form 2: Problem Identification and Solution Generation). An implementation plan is then developed (Form 3: Trial and Follow-Up Plan) with specifics of what AT will be tried, who will help with implementation, what data will be collected, and when the team will next meet to follow-up on the plan. Decisions on acquiring AT or trying other solutions are made based on the data collected during the trial process.

Assistive Technology decision-making is ongoing. AT needs are reassessed any time changes in the student, the environments, and/or the tasks result in the student's needs not being met with current devices and/or services.

The ATDMP forms (http://www.washtenawisd.org/departments/special-education/assistive-technology/ATDMPForms) referenced above and other information about assistive technology may be accessed under the Assistive Technology Services' AT Resources page on the Washtenaw Intermediate School District's website (http://www.washtenawisd.org).

Note: This information was adapted from The QIAT Consortium (http://qiat.org/; updated, 2014).