

Oklahoma ABLE Tech talkingPTS

Services and Programs at a Glance

Who we are / What we do

Oklahoma ABLE Tech is the statewide Assistive Technology Act Program proudly located at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. ABLE Tech is funded through the Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and maintains coordination and collaboration efforts with partners throughout the State of Oklahoma. ABLE Tech's mission is to improve access to, and acquisition of, assistive technology (AT) for individuals with disabilities through the lifespan across the state. AT is any product or service that maintains or improves the ability of individuals with disabilities – making them more independent whether in **education**, **employment**, and/or the **community**. ABLE Tech provides FREE AT services to all people in Oklahoma including those with disabilities, their families/caregivers, educators, and service providers.

www.okabletech.okstate.edu



State Assistive Technology Act Programs are crucial for successful access and acquisition of today's technology in all environments. AT Act Programs work to improve the provision of assistive technology to individuals with disabilities of all ages through comprehensive statewide programs and resources.

The four core activities of AT Act Programs include:

1. Device Demonstration
2. Device Short-Term Loan
3. Device Reutilization
4. State Financing

ABLE Tech tailors services and programs to respond to the unique needs of the population in Oklahoma; for example, by creating and disseminating an Oklahoma-specific AT funding manual showcasing public and private entities that purchase/provide AT and durable medical equipment for individuals with disabilities. ABLE Tech also assists people and entities statewide to become compliant with state and federal laws, regulations, and policies. In the 21st century, ABLE Tech bridges technological access and acquisition of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities in Oklahoma.

EDUCATION



“Having access to Oklahoma ABLE Tech’s assistive technology devices improved her understanding of direct cause-and-effect with toys. She has since developed the more abstract skill of using the iPad for communication requests.”

**Oklahoma County
SoonerStart Team**

Early intervention

ABLE Tech collaborates with the SoonerStart Early Intervention Program to provide AT for assessment/demonstration for infants and toddlers with disabilities through the use of statewide kits of low-tech AT. ABLE Tech provides technical assistance on the use of AT and has a loan library of specific early intervention AT for

trial loan. ABLE Tech participated in the development of Oklahoma’s State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) to improve statewide outcomes for early literacy, language, and communication. ABLE Tech’s guidance to SoonerStart will be a critical component of the success of this program.

This will help ensure compliance with IDEA Part C.

K-12 ABLE Tech contracts with OSDE to provide AT and information services to all school districts to improve the daily success of students and transition outcomes to achieve college, career, and citizen readiness. ABLE Tech accomplishes this through regional trainings, webinars, videos, one-on-one consultations, and technical assistance documents. From beginning to

“The [ABLE Tech] training explained so well the much greater cost of being reactive as opposed to being proactive where AT is concerned.”

**Jenks Public Schools,
AT Team Leader**

end, ABLE Tech trains school districts on considering student AT needs and assessing students’ AT needs through: collecting data, conducting AT trials, and acquiring needed AT. This comprehensive AT model builds capacity over time within school districts by training IEP teams to independently consider and assess student AT needs using evidence-based universal design for learning (UDL),

accessible education materials (AEM), and assistive technology (AT). ABLE Tech participated in the development of Oklahoma’s State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) to improve statewide outcomes for reading sufficiency by third grade. ABLE Tech’s guidance to school on AT service delivery will be a critical component of the success of this program.

ABLE Tech’s program, Special Education Resolution Center (SERC), offers innovative services that assist school districts and parents in settling disputes regarding the Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) of students with disabilities. This is accomplished through IEP facilitation, mediation, due process, and stakeholder training and is provided at no cost through a partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

All of these activities ensure compliance with IDEA Parts B and C, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Title II of the ADA.

"Thanks...everyone [ABLE Tech], who has worked so hard on this project. Let me just tell you, I think it was a great idea. I've learned more from competing in the games than I thought I would. It pushed me to make changes I hadn't gotten around to and to read up and learn things I was unclear about; didn't give us much time to procrastinate, lol."

WAHEP Team Member on the WAHEP Accessibility Games

Post-secondary ABLE Tech coordinates the Web Accessibility Higher Education Project (WAHEP) to help institutions of higher education throughout Oklahoma create more accessible digital campus environments. This is accomplished by training teams from 26 institutions on the evaluation and development of accessible websites. The ultimate goal is to assist institutions in the development of policy to ensure accessible learning environments for all students.

This will help ensure higher education compliance with ADA and state law.

EMPLOYMENT

"It made me key in on understanding and looking at my work environment and how to better serve people that may have a disability. Gave me new knowledge on the topic and a good place to turn to for information."

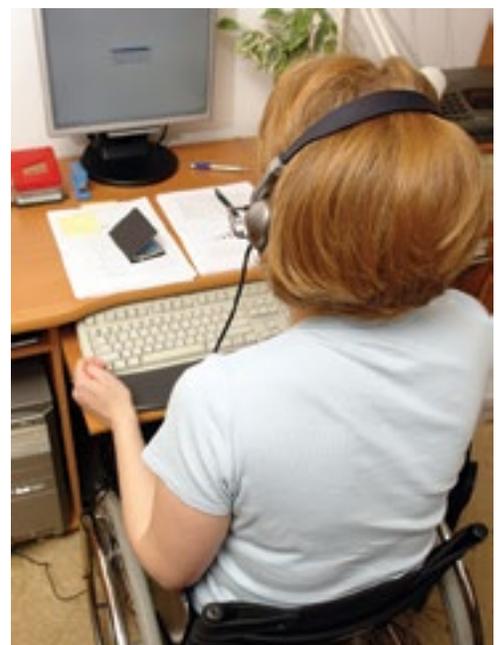
Access for All Training Participant

ABLE Tech, through a partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation Services under the Governor's Council on Workforce and Economic Development (GCWED), coordinates an Access for All program to improve employment outcomes for Oklahomans with disabilities. The shared goal of the Workforce System is to provide access to employment for everyone, ultimately increasing household wealth. Oklahoma has gaps to fill when it comes to employment of individuals with disabilities. The Oklahoma Workforce System has a great opportunity to help to close those gaps. Only 35.8% of individuals with disabilities are employed in Oklahoma, compared with 75.2% of individuals without disabilities in the state. By preparing students with disabilities to independently use technology to accomplish daily living and educational goals, ABLE Tech's systemic services will help with the employment of ALL Oklahomans.

This will help ensure compliance under the Rehabilitation Act of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014.

Under the AT Act, ABLE Tech maintains compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Through a partnership with the Southwest ADA Center, ABLE Tech worked to pass a law in 2004, Oklahoma's Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility (EITA) law, that holds state agencies, higher education, and the Career Tech systems accountable to compliance with state standards. This information technology (IT) procurement law requires that ABLE Tech provide the training and technical assistance to ensure that any IT which is procured or developed by state agencies, higher education, and Career Tech systems is accessible to people with disabilities. This is accomplished through coordination of an advisory council who oversees state progress and ABLE Tech's direct technical assistance to the Office of Management and Enterprise Services.

These activities help ensure compliance with ADA, Sections 503 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Oklahoma's Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility (EITA) law.



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COMMUNITY

ABLE Tech has partnerships with entities around the state to provide hands-on demonstrations and assessments of assistive technology for those with the following needs:

- hearing
- vision
- speech/communication
- daily living
- recreation
- environmental/play
- mobility/seating/positioning
- computer access
- learning/cognition development

ABLE Tech and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority have partnered to provide the Oklahoma Durable Medical Equipment Reuse Program. The program is designed to reuse valuable durable medical equipment (DME) that is no longer needed, and reassign it to Oklahoma residents in need.

ABLE Tech and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority have also partnered to provide durable medical equipment (DME), including iPads, apps, and durable cases as speech-generating devices (SGD), to eligible members up to age 21.

These programs are in alignment with policy under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

“Receiving this equipment was a life saver. It allows me to stand and strengthens my legs. I have used this stander every day since receiving it.”

OKDMERP recipient after receiving a stander



ABLE Tech partnered with the Office of Emergency Management to create an emergency preparedness Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VI Emergency Management and AT Reuse initiative. This is accomplished by defining the role of reusable AT (including, but not limited to, durable medical equipment) in disaster planning, response, recovery and mitigation for people with functional needs. ABLE Tech created an AT flow chart that provides an Emergency AT Needs Coordination and Provision Process to be shared statewide. ABLE Tech also created the Reuse Operational Manual with Quality Indicators and Best Practices for administering a statewide reuse program for Medicaid.

ABLE Tech in collaboration with Fire Protection Publications at Oklahoma State University provides free installation of smoke alarms and alert equipment in the homes of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

These activities align with the FEMA under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

ABLE Tech is considered one of the top ranking Assistive Technology Act Programs in the nation in number of people served in the four core activities.



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