

**THE 411 ON
ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY**

What is Universal Access?

Any tool, technology, or accommodation that ANY teacher can readily access to provide support to any student.

What is the difference between universal access, assistive technology, and instructional technology?

Universal Access

- Available to all students
- Provided as an accommodation
- Does not require an evaluation
- Provides support

Assistive Technology

- Requires an evaluation
- Is provided in a specific way to a specific student
- Is required by the student in order to access their school day.

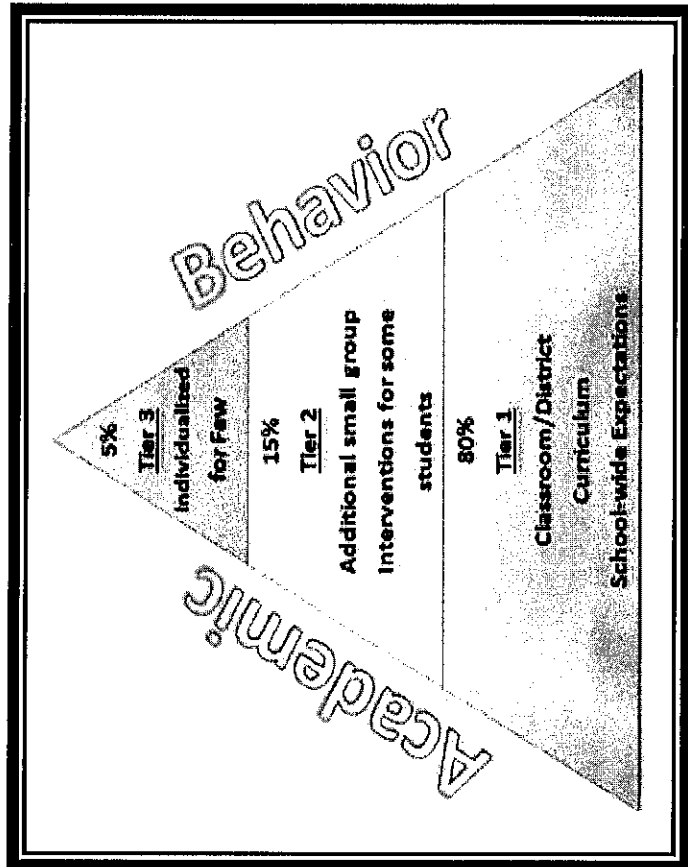
Instructional Technology

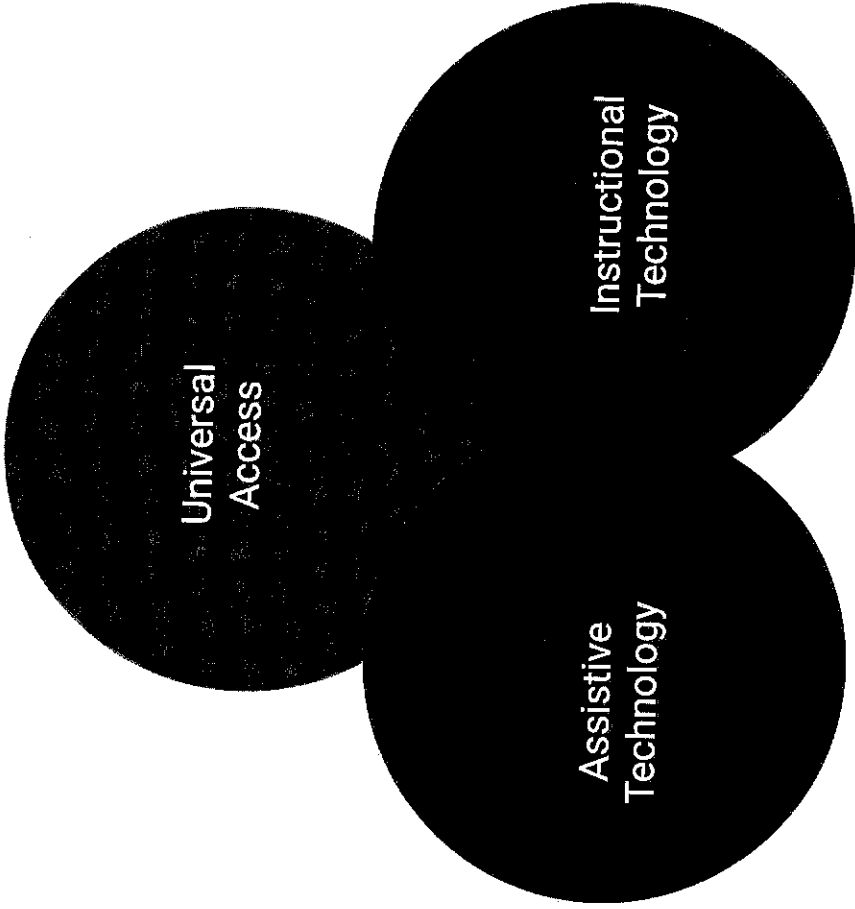
- Teaches a skill
- Does not require an evaluation
- May be used for remediation/reteaching
- Not required for student learning

Crumple and Toss

What types of *universal access* tools do you personally use?

Universal Access can be delivered to any student in the purple, green or even red sections. Assistive technology is like the cherry on top of this pyramid.





Universal
Access

Assistive
Technology

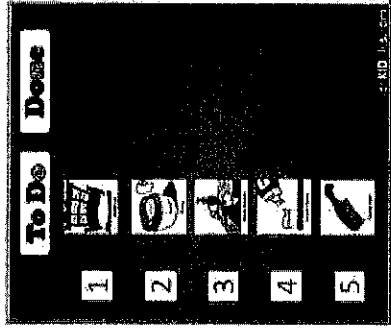
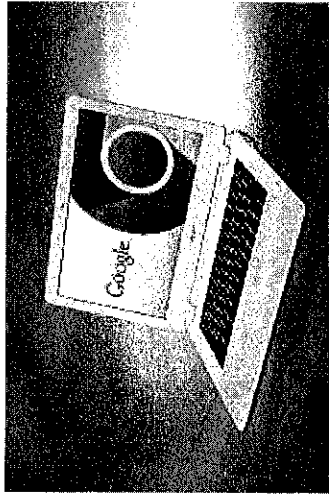
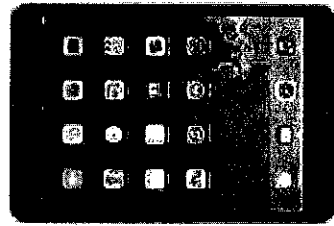
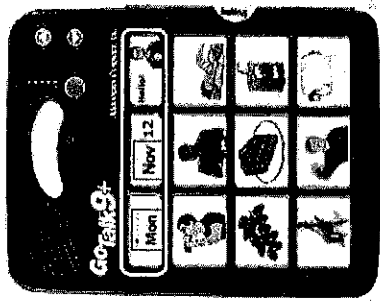
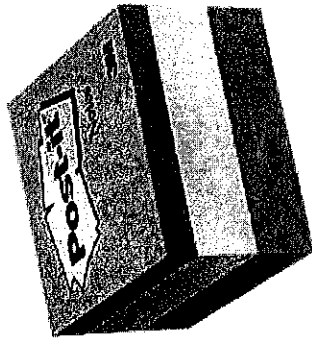
Instructional
Technology

Threshold for meeting eligibility for Assistive Technology:

- Student requires AT in order to access their curriculum
- We do no assess to determine if the student would benefit, as all students would benefit.
- If a student is in a special education program and they are NOT able to access their program and consistently fail to make progress on their goals and objectives, then they may require Assistive Technology
- Examples: AAC, VI/OM, DHH, physical handicap or severe motor impairment; some students with significant SLD's (dyslexia, dysgraphia) with average or above average cognition.

- Through assessment, and agreed upon by IEP team that the student requires assistive technology, it is placed in the IEP.
- If students do not require technology, but technology is available and the student would benefit, you do not need an AT assessment.

Quiz: Tool or Toy?



How you can help students with AT

- Don't do for them what they can do for themselves
- AT is a tool, not a toy. Keep the tool as a tool.
- Don't put anything on an iPad that can distract the student from using it for its original purpose.
- Students don't "earn" AT devices.
- Role model how to use devices (e.g. how to ask for milk on an AAC device)

Chromebooks/Laptops

- Writing support
- Google Drive
- Calendaring
- Speech to Text
- Add on tools

What can an iPad be used for?

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)
- Writing - speech to text
- Reading - text to voice, text size increase, change of contrast

FAIR IS NOT EQUAL

