What if the school district won’t pay for the AT?

The school district should give you a written decision if it will not help you obtain an AT evaluation, device or service. You have the right to appeal this denial.

For more information on how to appeal a denial of AT, contact Disability Rights Rhode Island.

There are several different ways to appeal the decision, and we would be happy discuss them with you. We may even be able to represent you on your appeal.

Where can I get more information about Special Education Rights?

For more information about your child’s special education rights, you can read our Special Education Handbook available in the publications section of our website:

www.drri.org

Disability Rights Rhode Island

Disability Rights Rhode Island is the private non-profit law office that receives federal funding to advocate for Rhode Islanders with disabilities.

We are available to help people with disabilities, their family members and providers learn more about Special Education services.

For more information or assistance please contact us!

Disability Rights Rhode Island
401-831-3150 Voice
401-831-5335 TTY
www.drri.org

Disability Rights Rhode Island
33 Broad Street, Suite 601
Providence, RI 02903
www.drri.org
What devices can the School District pay for?

School systems must provide AT to your child if it is required as a part of his or her special education services or other related services such as transportation, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language services. School systems may also purchase AT devices for use in your home if the school district determines that your child needs those devices in order to receive an appropriate education.

Examples of AT that a school district can provide are: schoolwork on audiotape for a child who is blind, augmentative communication equipment for a child with a communication impairment or even simpler items such as writing implements or eating utensils with larger handles.

How much of the cost will the School District cover?

School systems cannot charge families for special education services. Therefore the school system must provide needed AT devices or services to you at no cost.

Can the School District make us use my child’s insurance?

If your child is covered by public benefits (such as Medicaid), the school district may use that program to pay for AT. The school district may not require you to sign up for public benefits to get the AT. If there is an out-of-pocket expense if public benefits are used, the district can only use the public benefit program if it pays that cost for you.

If your child is covered by private insurance your school may only use the insurance with your consent.

Each time the school district wants to use your public health benefits or private insurance it must ask your consent. If you do not give consent that does not affect the district’s obligation to ensure that all required services are provided to your child at no cost to you.

How do I ask for a device?

A request for an evaluation to determine whether your child needs AT can be made at any time. Good times to request an AT evaluation are when your child is being evaluated for special education services or when the IEP team is reviewing the services. At other times you can ask your child’s IEP team to consider AT. Or you may make the request directly to your school’s special education office.

Will the school train my child to use the device?

If the school district agrees that your child needs an AT device as part of his or her special education services, then the school district must also provide training to your child, teachers and others, if necessary, so that your child can learn to use the device.