Accessibility in Schools: Supporting ALL Students

An "accessible" school...

- Supports students from different backgrounds, with different strengths, and with diverse needs and abilities

- Considers people with disabilities in its design (ex: mobility devices, vision impairment)

- Limits barriers and encourages inclusion and acceptance

- Provides or accommodates assistive devices/technology

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

DEFINITION

Assistive Technology (AT) is a broad term used to describe tools, equipment, and systems that help individuals with disabilities perform tasks they might otherwise find difficult or impossible. These technologies can be simple or complex, and they aim to enhance the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

EXAMPLES

- **Wheelchairs:** Mobility devices designed to assist individuals who have difficulty walking or cannot walk at all.

- **Screen readers:** Software that converts digital text into synthesized speech, helping visually impaired users navigate computers.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

"Schools are accessible for all students"

Explain your reasoning!

Accessibility in Focus: Mobility Devices

Why might someone use a mobility device?

- 'Invisible illnesses' such as chronic fatigue or epilepsy

- Having paralysis (unable to move or limited mobility in parts of the body)

- An injury (permanent or temporary)

- Illnesses or genetic conditions (such as cerebral palsy, muscular sclerosis, or ALS)

- Increased independence and and greater sense of freedom

- Necessity... everyone needs to get around!

Who benefits from an accessibility? It isn't just people with diverse needs or disabilities!

An accessible school means that EVERYONE has a chance to be successful!

	Permanent	Temporary	Situational
Touch	One arm	Arm injury	New parent
See	Blind	Cataract	Distracted driver

What are some other examples of "assistive technology" that you have seen?

TYPES OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT)

- ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR COGNITION (ATC)
- AT FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
- ASSISTIVE EATING DEVICES
- COMPUTER ACCESSIBILITY
- MOBILITY AIDS
- VISUAL AIDS

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You will be researching one type of assistive technology (AT). This could include: wheelchairs, hearing devices, communication apps, Braille, prosthetics, closed-captioning systems, pencil grips, speech-to-text programs, etc.