

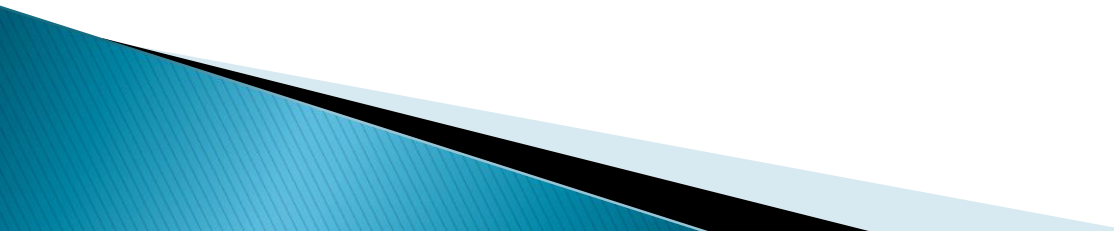
M.O.R.E. Commission  
Special Education Select Working Group

# Special Education in Other States

Regional and Statewide Service  
Delivery Examples

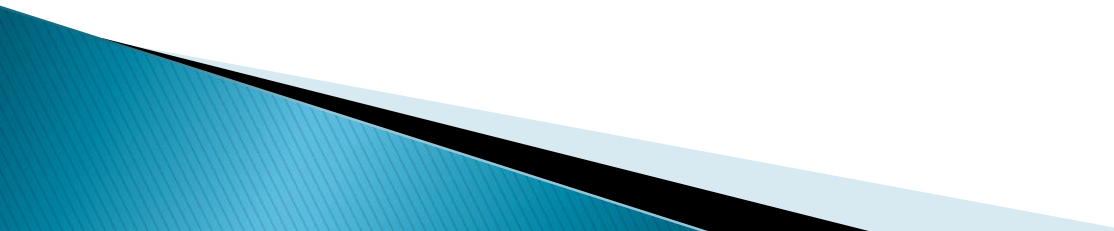
Office of Legislative Research  
January 15, 2015

# Overview

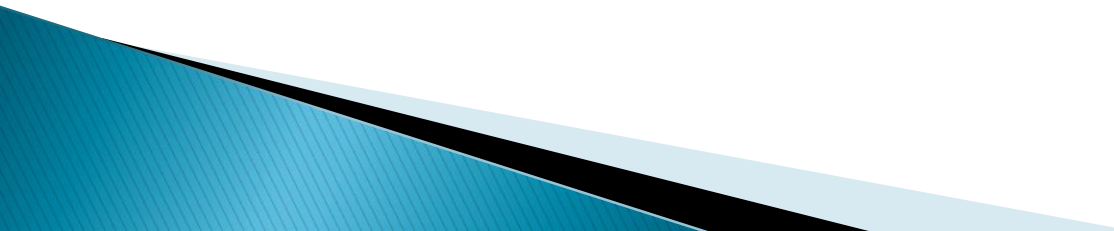
- ▶ Federal Mandates
  - ▶ Regional Efforts
    - **Educational Service Agencies:** Connecticut, California, Indiana, New York, and Rhode Island
    - **Special School Districts:** Louisiana, Missouri, and New Jersey
    - **State Special Education Administrative Services:** Illinois' Online IEP Database System and Nebraska's Assistive Technology Partnership
  - ▶ Questions
- 

# Federal Mandates

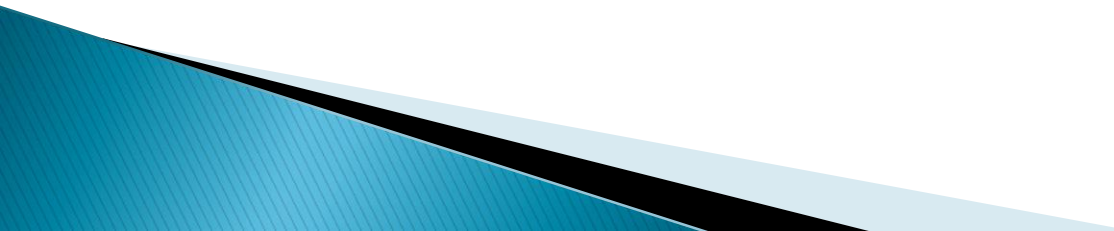
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates on local school districts:

- ▶ Least restrictive environment
  - ▶ Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
  - ▶ Assistive technology
- 

# Educational Service Agencies (ESA)

- ▶ Regional service providers
  - ▶ Found in almost all states
  - ▶ Often provide a continuum of special education services
  - ▶ Program administration, funding, and staffing worked out individually depending upon participants
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# ESA Continuum of Services

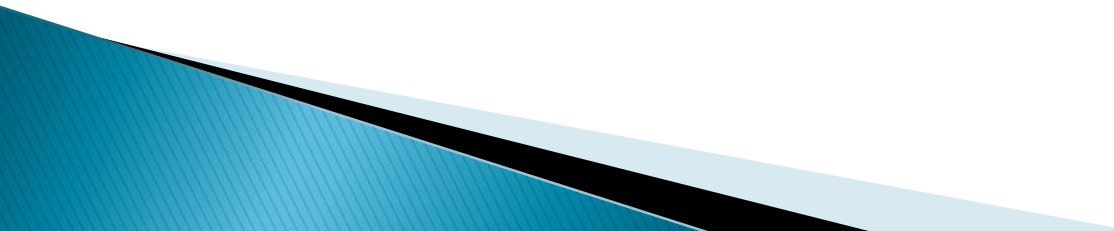
- ▶ Range from direct student services to back office functions
  - ▶ Examples:
    - Professional development for all ESA members
    - Central administration
    - Program start-up assistance (limited period)
    - Starting and administering a new program under contract with the ESA (ongoing)
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# Highlights of Educational Service Agencies in Five States

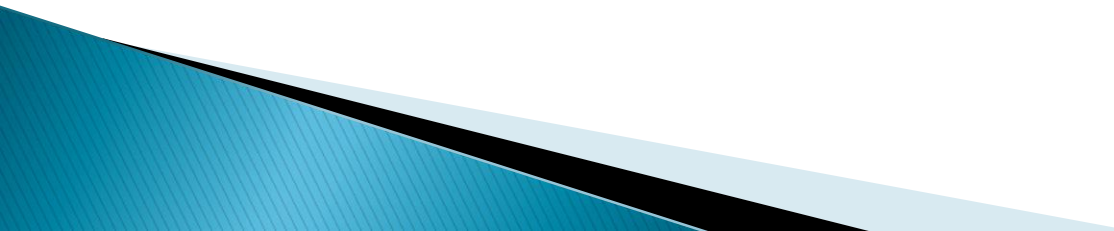
State	Educational Service Agency	Primary Funding Source	Offers Services in Addition to Special Education	Can be a Direct Provider of Special Education Services
Connecticut	Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs)	Member school districts and state	Yes	Yes
California	Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA)*	State	No	Yes
Indiana	Special Education Cooperatives	Member school districts and charter schools	No	Yes
New York	Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES)	Member school districts and state	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	Collaboratives	Member school districts and state	Yes	Yes

\*California has county offices of education that also act as ESAs, but for non-special education purposes.

# California's SELPAs

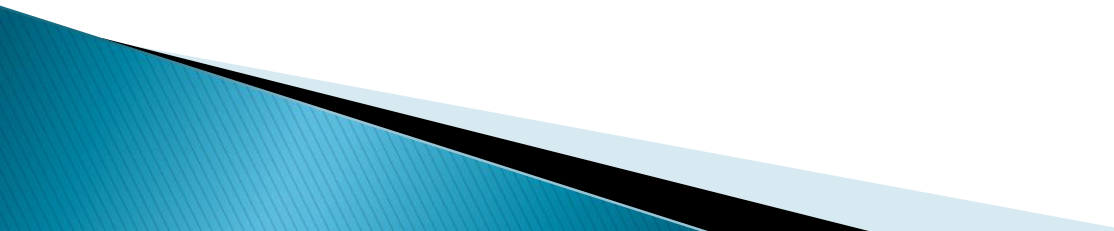
- ▶ 127 SELPAs serve the more than 1,000 California districts
  - ▶ Most are multi-district, some single district
  - ▶ Exist exclusively to provide special education services
  - ▶ Funded exclusively by the state
  - ▶ Governed by district members
  - ▶ Members craft SELPA plan
- 

# SELPA Plans

- ▶ Crafted jointly by district members
  - ▶ Plans may:
    - (a) keep money at the regional level to provide services,  
or
    - (b) send money to the local district level and district  
pay fees to SELPA for special education services.
- 

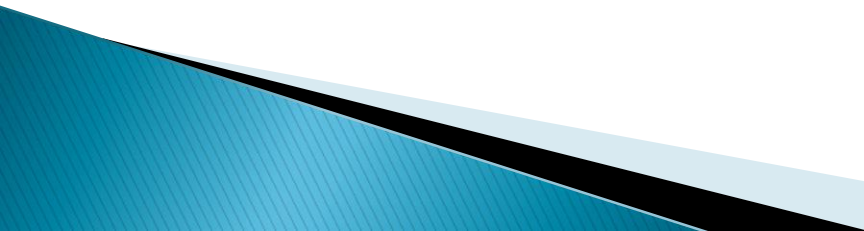


# Indiana's Special Education Cooperatives

- ▶ **Organization:** multiple school districts, or districts and charter schools
  - ▶ **Purpose:** services for students with diverse needs
  - ▶ **Management:** board of managers
  - ▶ **Funding:** shared by participating districts and charter schools
- 

# Indiana's Special Education Cooperatives (Cont'd)

## Boone-Clinton-Northwest Hendrix Joint Services

- ▶ Six districts
  - ▶ Services
    - psychological evaluations
    - consultation services
    - administrative services
  - ▶ Student disabilities
    - autism spectrum disorders
    - specific learning disabilities
    - language/speech impairments
    - cognitive/emotional disabilities
    - deafness/blindness
    - orthopedic impairments
- 

# Indiana's Special Education Cooperatives (Cont'd)

## Joint Educational Services in Special Education

- ▶ Nine districts
- ▶ Services
  - administration
  - transition programming
  - counseling
  - psychological services
  - therapy services
  - service coordination

# Special School Districts

## ▶ Purposes:

- Enroll students with severe needs
- Regionalize staff

## ▶ Examples:

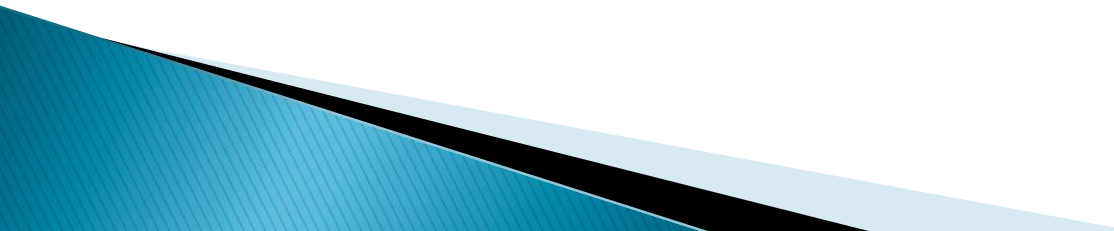
- Louisiana
  - Missouri
  - New Jersey
- 

# Louisiana's Special School District

- ▶ One district, three residential schools

<i>Special School</i>	<i>Services Provided</i>
<b>Louisiana School for the Deaf</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comprehensive Pre-K through 12 education for deaf and hard-of-hearing children ages 3-21 who reside in Louisiana</li><li>• Instruction in a bilingual environment of American Sign Language and English</li></ul>
<b>Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educational programs for Louisiana children who are blind or visually impaired</li></ul>
<b>Louisiana Special Education Center</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Services for orthopedic-impaired students ages 3-32</li><li>• Vocational training and transitional services for students aged 14-32</li></ul>

# Louisiana's Special School District (Cont'd)

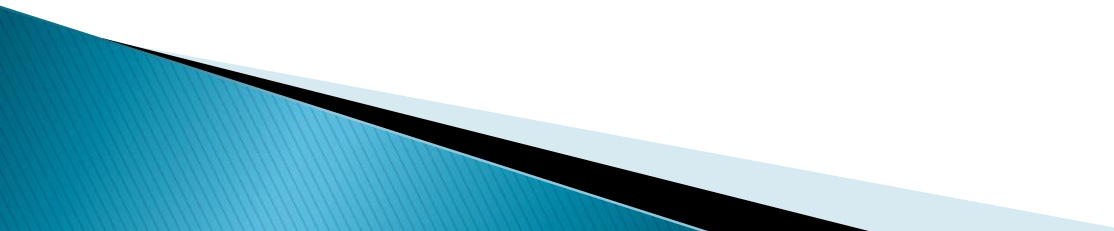
- ▶ **Organization:** ESA administered by the state's Department of Education
  - ▶ **Funding:** state funds students attending one of three schools; district cannot levy taxes
- 

# Missouri's Special School Districts

## ▶ Purposes:

- Educate disabled and severely disabled
- Provide regionalized services
- Establish special education schools

## ▶ Organization:

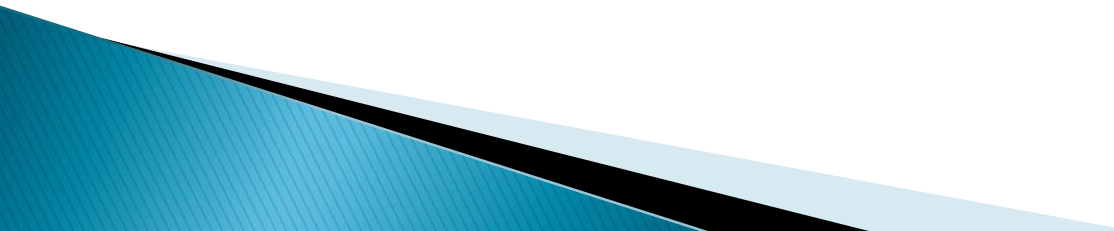
- Originates through petition
  - Confirmed by municipal/special election
  - Reviewed and approved by state board of education
- 

# Missouri's Special School Districts (Cont'd)

## ▶ Leadership:

- Population-based
- Seven-member board: up to 100,000
- Governing council: greater than 100,000

## ▶ Funding:

- Local: levy an operating tax
  - County
  - State: meet certain operating requirements to receive aid
- 



# Missouri's Special School Districts (Cont'd)

## ▶ Programs:

1. Special education schools
2. In-district services
3. After-school services
4. Related special education services

## ▶ Examples:

1. Special School District of St. Louis County
  2. Pemiscot County Special School District
- 

# Missouri's Special School Districts (Cont'd)

## Special School District of St. Louis County

- ▶ Serves 22 school districts
- ▶ Operates five special education schools for students with a range of disabilities and one for students with social-emotional-behavioral issues
- ▶ Provides special education services to students in 265 public schools
- ▶ Offers after-school special education services to private, parochial, and homeschooled students
- ▶ Provides related special education services
  - assistive technology services
  - occupational therapy
  - physical therapy
  - speech therapy
  - audiology
  - parent training

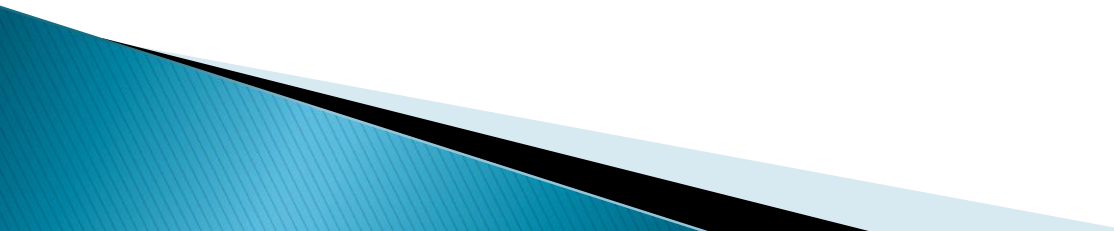
# Missouri's Special School Districts (Cont'd)

## Pemiscot County Special School District

- ▶ Serves seven school districts
  - ▶ Provides special education and related services
    - occupational/physical therapy
    - assistive technology
    - psychiatric services
    - counseling
    - speech/language
    - staff training
  - ▶ Provides staff professional development
    - inclusion
    - classroom management
    - co-teaching
    - accommodations
- 

# Missouri's Special School Districts (Cont'd)

## Schools for the Severely Disabled

- ▶ Not part of the special school districts
  - ▶ Serves students with severe to profound disabilities
  - ▶ Administered by the state board of education
- 

# New Jersey's Special Services School Districts

- ▶ **Purpose:** To educate severely disabled children who have one of the following disabilities, among others:
  - intellectual disability
  - emotional disturbance
  - neurological impairment
  - chronic illness
  - social maladjustment
  - autism
- ▶ **Organization:**
  - Established by a county after a public hearing by the board of county freeholders
  - Led by a seven-member board, including county superintendent
  - Regulated by the state board of education

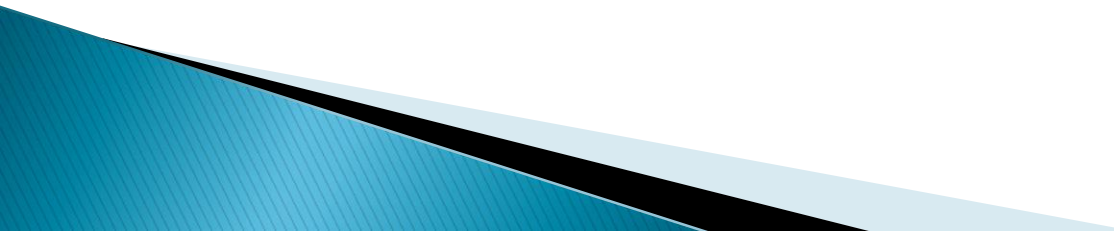
# New Jersey's Special Services School Districts (Cont'd)

- ▶ **Funding:**
  - County appropriations
  - Sending district tuition and fees
- ▶ State department of education deducts sending district's tuition from state aid; sends it to the receiving special services district
- ▶ Special services district generally receives no state funding

# Statewide Special Education Efforts

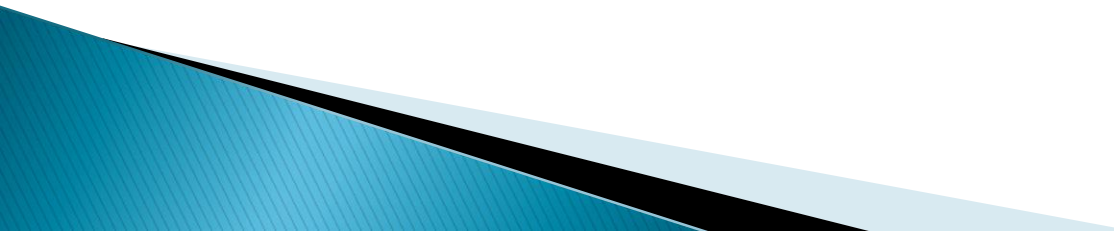
Illinois and Nebraska

# Illinois' Online IEP Database System: I-Star

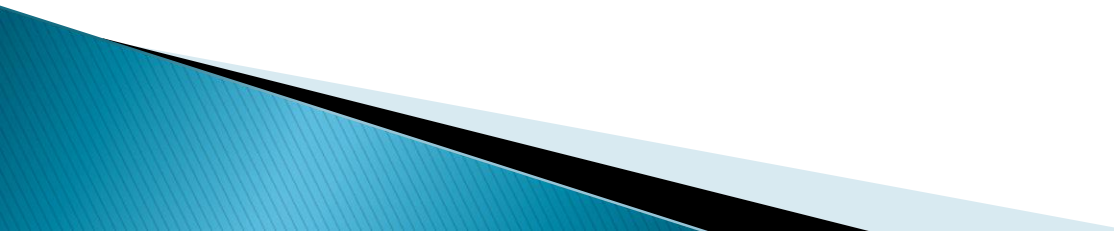
- ▶ Central system to draft and store IEPs and related documents
  - ▶ Link to state Student Information System for student demographic data downloads
  - ▶ Templates and prompts for writing IEPs
  - ▶ Draft IEPs can be shared with appropriate authorized users
- 



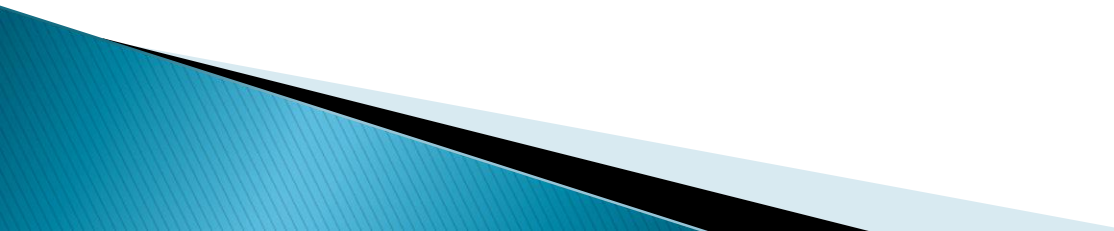
# Illinois' Online IEP Database System: I-Star (Cont'd)

- ▶ Integrated with Illinois IEP quality project
  - ▶ Built-in compliance measures
  - ▶ Automated reminders for annual review and reevaluations
  - ▶ Easy transfer of documents between school districts
- 

# Illinois' Online IEP Database System: I-Star (Cont'd)

- ▶ Security measures to protect student information
    - User must be authorized through the Illinois Web Application Security Program
    - Login and password protected
    - Encrypted data
    - IEP activity log for auditing purposes
- 

# Illinois' Online IEP Database System: I-Star (Cont'd)

- ▶ Currently being piloted
  - ▶ No cost to districts
  - ▶ Districts option to join
  - ▶ Training videos and PowerPoints available online
  - ▶ Training workshops
- 

# IEP Case Management

## Annual Review/Reevaluation

- \* Once a student has an IEP in I-Star, use *Annual Review* and/or *Reevaluation* for all future IEPs

IEP Overview | **IEP Timeline** | IEP Forms | Notice and Consent Forms | Eligibility Forms | Print History | Activity Log | Attachments

+ Add Form | Print IEP | **Setup a Conference** | **Annual Review** | **Reevaluation**

- \* Evaluate the Access List and click *Save*

Access List ( + Add)							
Edit	Delete	Name	Entity	Interpreter	Read-Only	Notifications	Make Forms Official
		Admin, Wovsed	Wabash & Ohio Valley Sp Ed Dist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		DistrictDoc1, wovsed1	Norris City Annex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

You can select a user from the list of common user for your district.

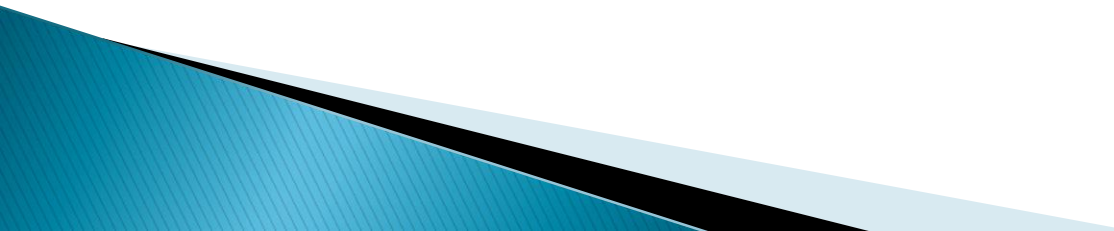
Common Users					
Select	Name	Interpreter	Read-Only	Notifications	Make Forms Official
No Records Found					

- Save - Please save the IEP Package
- Cancel - Please exit the wizard.

105 / 111

**Save**

# Illinois IEP Tutorial & Decision Making Support (Cont'd)

- ▶ Goals:
    - Helps teachers and IEP team write IEPs
    - Helps teachers focus on use of instructional time to meet IEP student achievement goals
  - ▶ Does not:
    - Produce the IEP
    - Direct teachers regarding a specific disability
- 

# Illinois IEP Tutorial & Decision Making Support (Cont'd)

- ▶ Offers:
  - Help topics for each section of IEP
  - Sample student scenarios with goals
  - Goal assistance to link goals to state standards
  - FAQs to help facilitate the process

# Nebraska's Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP)

- ▶ **Purpose:** Provides access to assistive technology devices for:
  - students
  - adults
  - service providers
  - educators
  - employers
  - health care professionals
- ▶ **Organization:** Housed in the state department of education within the division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- ▶ **Funding:**
  - Established using federal grant from Technology-Related Assistance Act of 1988
  - Assists special education students through IDEA grants

# Nebraska's ATP (Cont'd)

- ▶ **Services:** employs five education specialists who serve two to four regions out of 19

<i>Service Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>Professional development and training</b>	ATP hosts events for large and small groups of parents, educators, and professionals that are designed to increase knowledge and skills.
<b>Consultations</b>	Technology specialists respond to school requests to help identify student-specific, appropriate assistive technology for special education students.
<b>Equipment demonstrations</b>	Technology specialists offer equipment samplings that compare the features and benefits of particular devices or categories of devices for one student or small group.
<b>Equipment loans</b>	ATP lends equipment to schools at no cost to (1) help in the technology decision-making process or (2) fill a gap while waiting for equipment funding or repair.
<b>Awareness events</b>	ATP offers presentations and exhibits at conferences to reach a large audience.

Source: [Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership 2013 Annual Report](#)



Questions?