Resources for Students with Disabilities

To the parents of Mrs. Cooper's Class

Benefits of Assistive Technology

- More control of his/her own life

- Participation in activities

- Increased positivity, independence, and self-motivation

- Opportunities for communication

- To overcome impairments during their daily life

- Integrating students into inclusive settings

- Greater self-esteem

- To overcome academic and social factors

- Improve organizational skills

Helpful Websites

1. http://www.greatschools.org/articles/?topics=188&language=EN

2. http://www.wati.org/content/supports/free/pdf/ATResourceGuideDec08.pdf

3. http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/pubs/Assistive_Technology_Parents_Guide.pdf

4. http://techmatrix.org/

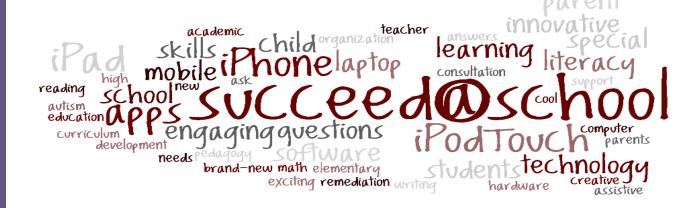5. http://www.ncld.org/students-disabilities/assistive-technology-education

Assistive Technology, IDEA, and IEP

Assistive Technology is any item, software, or system that can be used in everyday life to increase and improve lives' of those with a disability. There are two types of AT: low tech and high tech devices.

The Individuals with Disabilities Act also known as IDEA is a law to protect those with disabilities as well as providing FAPE (free and appropriate public education).

Individualized Education Program also known as an IEP is a document that describes an individual child's strengths and weaknesses as well as any services, and their educational plan and goals that should be achieved for the following school year.

6 Examples of Assistive Technology

Low Tech Examples:

- Adapted furniture- Ex. Rise and fall tables or kidney bean tables for those who may have physical disabilities or are in a wheelchair

- Pencil grip- helpful for those who lack fine motor skills

- Correction tape- to fix a word or sentence when writing

- Visual Timer- students are able to visually depict how much time they have left

- Copy of teachers notes- for students who have trouble with auditory processing

High Tech Examples:

- Talking calculators- for those who have trouble entering accurate keys and to verify the answer before putting it on paper
- Tobii Technology- communication device for those who might have Cerebral Palsy

- Text-to-Speech Software- use of classroom computer if child has difficulty with handwriting

- Outlining Software- for those who struggle with organizing their thoughts/preparing for tests