Developing a Comprehensive In-District AAC program

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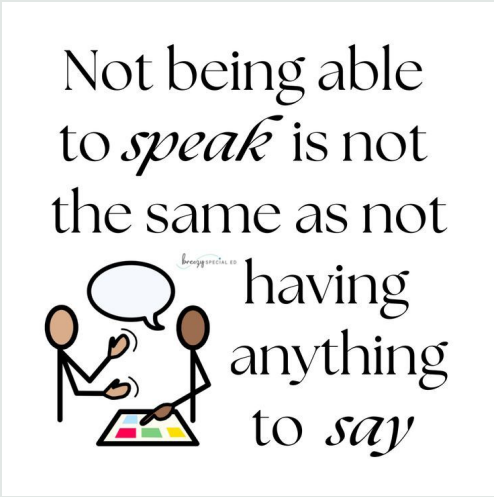
CT Aspiring Leaders in Special Education 2024-2025

Vision

All students in the district will have access to the communication tools and support they need to express themselves, build relationships, and reach their full academic and personal potential, regardless of verbal ability

Mission

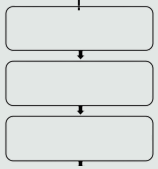
To create a comprehensive district-wide AAC program that contains the resources to provide students who have complex communication needs individualized supports, evidenced-based practices, collaborative team training, and family involvement.



Why?

- 28th year as an SLP and 12th year in public education
- Caseload has primarily been students in our district's autism program in preschool and early elementary
- No formal procedure/process for identifying students who need high tech AAC and then once identified, no specific process for obtaining/maintaining devices
- Increasing population of students with complex communication needs.
- "Outside" AAC evaluations typically have waiting list

Project stages

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
			
Collect Data	Secure Funding	Develop Processes	Provide Training/ Resources

Stage 1: Data Collection

Farmington District Data

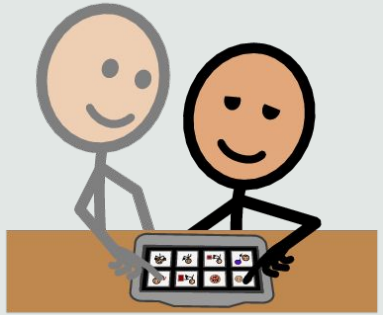
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Total # special education students	485	516	514	543	555
# students with autism	93	94	106	113	121
# students with AAC devices	17	18	26	27	34

Data taken from Edsight website, CT SEDS, district SLP caseload data

Stage 1: District SLP Survey Results

Survey responses received from 7/8 district SLPs

Has had specific Training in AAC Evaluation	57%
Has had specific Training in AAC Implementation	71%
Not comfortable completing AAC evaluations	43%
Not comfortable implementing AAC	14%
Identified “not having resources (trial devices, evaluation templates, evaluation tasks, etc)” as a barrier to completing AAC evaluations	86%



Stage 1: District SLP Survey Results

AAC program	# current users
Proloquo2Go	22
TouchChat	2
TD Snap	4
LAMP	1
low-tech	5

Stage 2: Secure Funding

Item	Quantity	Approx Cost Each	Total cost
ipad	4	550	2200
Ipad cases	4	30	120
Screen protector	4	8 (for 2 pack)	16
AAC apps	4 Proloquo2Go 4 TD Snap 2 LAMP 2 TouchChat	250* 50 300* 300*	500* 200 600* 600*
AAC Evaluation Genie app	4	13	52
			$3386 - $4288

Possible Funding Sources:

- IDEA grant
- District budget
- AAC Vendors

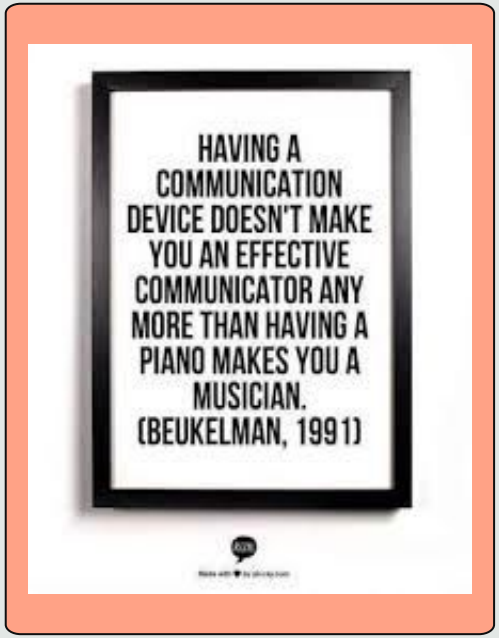
- Typical cost of an AAC evaluation from NEAT = $3500

* typically can be purchased for ½ price in October and April

Stage 3: Develop Processes

- Collaborate with IT and Finance departments
- Develop flowchart to guide SLPs and IEP teams through each stage of trial and acquisition process
- Create system to track and manage assessment/trial tools (SLP “lending Library”)

Stage 4: Provide Training/Resources



- Professional Development for SLPs in assessment and implementation
- SLP Peer mentoring
- Shared Google Drive of resources including evaluation templates, sample reports, handouts for teachers/paras/families
- Links to training videos/manuals

Many thanks!

Any questions?

You can reach me at:

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