

SCR 22 Education Technology Task Force Meeting
Assistive Technology Sub-Committee Notes
January 11, 2016

Subcommittee Members present: Dusty Blakey (Chair), Patricia Dallas, Kimberley Reinagel-Nietubicz, Matthew Korobkin (phone), Beth Mineo

Discussion took place regarding the January 2016 rough draft of the Senate Concurrent Resolution #22: State Educational technology Task Force. The draft was reviewed and it was felt by the members that the entire portion of Assistive Technology needed to be re-written. The sub-committee felt that nothing was addressed or written into the draft that had been discussed in their previous meetings.

It was felt that Assistive Technology isn't distinct from other products and that it can't separate out to stand alone. There is an overall impact on all areas. The main goal was discussed and changes discussed.

The goal should be focused on ensuring that all students including students with disabilities have access to assistive technology to help them learn and achieve.

Assistive Technology paragraph at the top of page 10 should be entirely re-written.

The audience should be non-professionals, non-educators and this paragraph has to spell out everything. It has to be important, impact for all students, shouldn't be in own category. Big picture – thinking educationally, socially. Students should be able to communicate whether they are speaking or using a device.

There was also discussion on integrating assistive technology goals into Teaching and Learning goals. Assistive Technology needs to be represented.

We need to define what Assistive Technology is, keeping it simplistic as possible. Needs to be defined, put in examples of assistive technology that you see in classrooms today.

The team will work collaboratively on defining what the challenge has become, how it impacts, they will lay out everything, define the problem. Show easy examples and research to support it. Make it more respectful and positive. Define the fundamental issue with assistive technology in Delaware. Need to support. Team needs to ensure it aligns with everything else, and show where the fundamental problem.

The report needs to be clear showing what action needs to be taken, what steps need to be made to move it forward.

We also need a fiscal mechanism to meet the recommendations that are being made, and have a remedy to the problem.

One item needed to be added to the Strategies: **Ensuring students across the state have the access to acquiring the technology deemed necessary by the team.**

Access of assistive technology is inconsistent with lack of resources being the major deterrent. It goes across all districts and charters. Recommendation would have to address all the things laid out.

Changes to Goal 8 were discussed and one thought was to change to: **All educators will know how to enhance abilities of students with disabilities through technology and assistive technology.**

The Assistive Technology group agreed to work together as a team on the draft and change the entire portion of Assistive Technology which includes page 10, page 18 and page 29. Patricia Dallas will set up a Google document for all member of the AT committee to make changes of the draft. Dusty will ask his Colonial AT staff to work on the draft. Will have final draft of all changes by February meeting. There is a conference call scheduled for Friday, January 15th at 11:30 a.m. for the team to discuss the draft and any recommended changes to date. Geri Donahue will send out the calendar invitation to the team for that date and time.