# Vocational Rehabilitation Services Manual C-1300: Transition Services for Students and Youth with Disabilities

Revised April 1, 2022

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## C-1305: Providing Transition Services

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### C-1305-5: Assistive Technology

The local education agency (LEA) must provide assistive technology and assistive devices to meet the educational needs of high school students. The student may use the equipment at home to complete homework assignments and school projects.

In accordance with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements, if the student's Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee determines that a student with a disability needs home access to telecommunications, sensory devices, and/or other technological aids to meet the requirements of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE), the LEA must provide the devices for home use in order to implement the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

#### Technology Evaluation

Students who may need assistive technology to achieve their postsecondary goals may be sent for an assistive technology evaluation during their senior year of high school.

#### Necessity Requirement

The transition vocational rehabilitation counselor (TVRC) may purchase the assistive devices and assistive technology only if the items are needed for the student's postsecondary education or long-term employment.

Note: In general, assistive technology must be purchased with basic VR funds, not Pre-employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) funds. However, in some circumstances when assistive devices are necessary and reasonable for participation in Pre-ETS, such as a work-based learning opportunity, the VR counselor may be able to purchase the assistive technology using Pre-ETS funds for VR-eligible students with an approved Individualized Plan for Employment.

Auxiliary aids and services may be purchased with Pre-ETS funds for students with sensory or communication disabilities who are participating in a Pre-ETS activity and need an auxiliary aid to participate. For questions about purchasing auxiliary aids with Pre-ETS funds, contact the Pre-ETS team by email. Examples of auxiliary aids and services include qualified interpreters, readers, material written in braille, screen readers, and auditory programs. See 28 CFR 35.104. These auxiliary aids and services may be purchased for both eligible and potentially eligible students.

#### Student Informed Choice

Assistive technology is changing rapidly. When appropriate, the VR counselor and the student discuss the options of having equipment purchased while the student is still in high school or waiting until after the student graduates.

If a student and his or her TVRC agree to have equipment purchased while the student is still in high school and the assistive technology continues to meet the student's future employment needs, TWC may not be able to pay for more advanced technology at a later date.

#### Prior Consultation

To ensure that the school is unable to provide the assistive technology and that the appropriate funding is used, the TVRC must consult with the regional program specialist for transition services before any assistive technology purchases are made for the purpose of postsecondary education or employment before the student completes his or her senior year of high school.

#### Purchase Procedures

To purchase telecommunications, sensory, and other technological aids and devices, follow the procedures in ReHabWorks (RHW).

The justification for purchase in the case notes must clearly state that the assistive technology is being purchased for postsecondary education, long-term employment, or participation in Pre-ETS.

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