

## ASSISTIVE/ AUGMENTATIVE TECHNOLOGY:

### Assisting Students with ADHD

#### What is Assistive/ Augmentative Technology?

Assistive Technology is “any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a child with a disability” (IDEA, 2017).

#### Levels of Assistance:

- **Low Tech**

- This level refers to assistive tools that are low cost, easy to procure, and do not involve complex training to administer.



An example of low-tech assistive technology for students with ADHD are active seating aids, such as wobble cushions or exercise balls. People with ADHD concentrate more effectively when they have sensory-motor input, and active seating options are a great way to incorporate their need to move in the classroom.

Image courtesy of  
TherapistChoice.com

- **Mid-Tech**

- This level of assistance refers to assistive tools that are moderate in cost, usually battery-powered, and require some training to use.



An example of mid-tech assistive technology for students with ADHD are noise cancelling headphones. This technology helps block out environmental noise and distractions, and can help students concentrate. The headphones are reasonably priced, and can be found in foldable models for easy storage.

Image courtesy of  
Amazon.com

- **High-Tech**

- This level of assistance refers to assistive tools that are higher in cost, usually involve computers or are electrically or structurally complex, and require significant training to utilize.



An example of high-tech assistive technology for students with ADHD are organizational software programs. These technologies are computer applications that assist with organizational skills. The organizational software can help organize student's schedules and tasks in color-coded formats, with auditory reminders.

Image courtesy of  
Understood.org

## References

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- Reed, P., & Lahm, E. (2009). *Assessing students' needs for assistive technology: a resource manual for school district teams*. Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative.