

**QIAT
Conversations
without Borders....**

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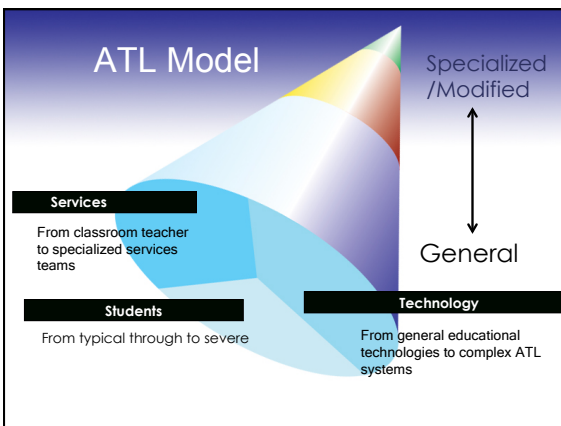
PDF of presentation available
for download at
<http://www.joyzabala.com>

The Context... Definition of ATL (Alberta)

Assistive Technology for Learning (ATL) is defined as the **devices, media and services** used in learning environments to overcome barriers for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, speech, learning or behavioural special needs to actively engage in learning and to achieve their individual learning goals.

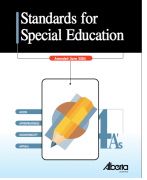
What is ATL (Alberta)?

- ATL is a subset of a broad range of technologies that enhance children's learning.
- ATL assists students in performing functions that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to accomplish independently and is directly related to educational delivery of the learning outcomes in the *Alberta Program of Studies*.



Appropriate Programming

Assistive technology is part of an *Appropriate* program for many students with disabilities.



Standards for Special Education

The ATL Continuum

ATL devices and media range from “low tech” tools such as pencil grips and large print books . . .



The ATL Continuum

. . . to “high tech” systems such as speech recognition computer systems and screen reading technologies.



ATL Devices . . .

... are the readily available **components** that can be purchased and compiled into ATL systems. They are tangible **things**.



ATL Services...

... are the **strategies, ideas, supports and personnel** that are necessary to make the device(s) work functionally for the person.



ATL Services

ATL Services include:

- knowledge and expertise about the student
- the assessment process
- evaluation of the tools
- training
- strategies for implementing the devices.

*The success of technology has more to do with people than machines.
All the right parts and pieces together won't work miracles by themselves.*

It is people who make technology powerful by creatively using it to fulfill their dreams.

Alliance for Technology Access, 1996

Let's Reflect...

- What do you have in place to support effective use of ATL in your class, school, or jurisdiction?
- What are the top three areas where you or your team has struggled with appropriate implementation of ATL?



A Brief Introduction to QIAT

QIAT@lsv.uky.edu

<http://www.qiat.org>



The QIAT Community

- Began in the Fall of 1998
- Is a grass roots effort
- Has participants from all perspectives
- Is an all inclusive and ongoing effort
- Facilitated by the QIAT Consortium

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Mission Statement

The mission of QIAT is to guide the provision of quality AT services to improve educational achievement of students with disabilities.

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Purpose of QIAT

- Guide improvement of AT services in order to improve the educational participation and results of students.
- Improve quality of services
- Increase consistency of services
- Support implementation IDEA and other legal mandates

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Need for Guidelines

Studies point to the need for:

- A systematic way of planning, developing, and delivering AT devices and services
- Consistent, clearly understood descriptions of quality AT services

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Beneficiaries of QIAT

- School districts - *quality AT services*
- Service providers - *continuous improvement*
- Consumers and families - *integrated AT services*
- Universities - *competent service providers*
- Policy-makers - *judicious policy*


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QIAT Developments

1998 to Present


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Primary QIAT Tools

- Indicators in 8 areas
- Validated in 2004
- Matrix for each area
- Resources
- QIAT Web site


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8 QIAT Areas

- Consideration
- Assessment
- Implementation
- Evaluation of Effectiveness
- Transition
- Administrative Support
- Professional Development


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Contents of Each Area

- I. Section Title (Area Name)
- II. Overview of the Area
- III. Indicators
- IV. Intent Statements
- V. Common Errors

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Assumptions for ALL Areas

- Require on-going collaborative work
- Respect ethical practices
- Are legally correct and aligned
- Are applicable regardless of the model of service delivery
- Are applicable to other service plans and programs

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Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology

QIAT Participation

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QIAT Online

QIAT Web Site
<http://www.qiat.org>

The QIAT List

- collegial conversations
- new information and updates
- handouts and feedback


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QIAT Summits

- Goals and priorities set for actions in each indicator area
- Tools developed to support use of QIAT
- Work vetted and shared by the QIAT Leadership Team


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On the Website

- The Quality Indicators
- Guiding Documents
- Planning Tools
- Document review

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The QIAT Website



Let's take a look!

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You are cordially invited to...

The QIAT Website and List
and
QIAT Summit 2011
June 21 and 22, 2011
Little Rock, Arkansas

Check the QIAT website for registration information in spring

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Let's Reflect... 3-2-1

3 important ideas we explored today...

2 ideas for how you might use the Quality Indicators in your work....

1 way you are going to use the QIAT resources right away.



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