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## SPECIAL EDUCATION FIELD ADVISORY

**FROM:** Patricia J. Geary   
**SUBJECT:** **Webcast on Assistive Technology for Students with Disabilities**

For many students with disabilities, assistive technology provides a bridge to overcome barriers to participation and progress in school. Assistive technology facilitates success and independence for students with disabilities while they work toward their academic, social, communication, occupational and recreational goals. By addressing the student's unique needs, assistive technology can reduce barriers to learning; assist students in progressing in their educational program; provide equitable access to the State's learning standards; and provide students with independence as they participate and progress along with their peers in school and in post-school living, learning and working. Additionally, assistive technology supports increased social and environmental access and completion of everyday tasks.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is pleased to announce a webcast on Assistive Technology for Students with Disabilities that provides an overview of policy, practices and resources related to assistive technology. This webcast was developed to assist school personnel in the consideration, assessment, recommendation and implementation of assistive technology that will effectively meet students' needs. This webcast can be accessed at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2016-memos/assistive-technology-webinar.html>

Questions regarding assistive technology may be directed to the Office of Special Education Policy Unit at (518) 473-2878.