

## **Educational Technology Information**

The technology must be used primarily for educational purposes for the child with a disability.

1. The ESA+ Program encourages families to seek a professional assessment of the child's needs prior to purchasing technology. See the [NC Assistive Technology Program](#) for more information.
2. ESA+ cannot be used for the same category of item again within three years. This limitation is particularly important when purchasing a laptop/computer or tablet/iPad, but it applies to all high-ticket items; i.e., any item over \$600.

**How to measure the 3-year clock:** Measure against school year. For example, a tablet purchased in 2022-23 (fall or spring) can be purchased again during 2025-26. The purchase year is 2022-23; 2023-24 is 1 year later; 2024-25 is 2 years later; and 2025-26 is 3 years later.

### **Categories of Educational Technology**

- **Vision** - Products designed to assist with vision.  
**Categories:** (1) Magnifiers including CCTV systems; (2) talking scales; (3) screen readers; (4) screen magnifiers; (5) Braille displays
- **Hearing** - Products designed to assist with hearing.  
**Categories:** (1) Personal amplification systems (PocketTalker Pro); (2) Personal amplification systems – wireless (FM); (3) Group Assistive Listening Systems
- **Speech communication** - Products designed to assist with speaking and face-to-face communication for individuals with speech disabilities.  
**Categories:** (1) Speech generating devices; (2) Communication boards/books; (3) Software with speech output; (4) Devices that produce text but not voice output for face-to-face communication (e.g. Crespeaker); (5) Voice clarifiers; (6) Voice amplifiers; (7) Stuttering aids
- **Learning, cognition, and developmental** - Products to provide people with disabilities access to educational materials and instruction; products that assist with learning and cognition.  
**Categories:** (1) Calculators; (2) Clocks/Timers/Wake-up Systems; (3) General Personal Organization; (4) Memory Aids; (5) Money Management; (6) Notetaking/Recording Devices; (7) Electronic Organizers/Personal Digital Assistants  
**Note:** *This category does not include mobile phones.*
- **Computers and related**- Hardware and software products.  
**Categories:** (1) Desktop or laptop computer; (2) tablet (e.g. iPad); (3) Interactive whiteboard (e.g. Promethean). Note that for Promethean-type products, the mounting hardware costs are allowable, but a fee for the service of mounting is not allowable; (4) Educational software or Apps; (5) Computer accessories that enable people with disabilities to access, interact with, and use computers; includes modified or alternate keyboards, switches activated by pressure, touch screens, special software, voice to text software.

## Educational Technology Information

- **Computers and related** (*continued*)

**Limitations:** Accessories for a computer may only be purchased in a **bundle** with the purchase of the computer (once every three years). Allowable accessories include wireless keyboard or mouse, printer, cables, a case (for an iPad, for example), a carrying case for a laptop, or external speakers.

**Headphones:**

- Headphones are excluded unless specific to assistive technology as defined above (*Hearing*). These products that qualify as specific to assistive technology may be approved for use with hearing aids like Sennheiser or Momentum.
- Allowable headsets include those approved for special voice recognition, such as to use with Dragon (voice to text) software
- Excluded headsets include noise canceling headsets, airbuds, and airpods

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### Excluded Items

**DEVICES** *not allowable*

- Cell phones
- Televisions
- Cameras / photography equipment
- Google Nest / Alexa Hubs
- LCD projectors
- Smart speakers
- Smart watch (e.g. Apple Watch)
- Regular wristwatch
- Fit bit type device that is not primarily for clock/alarm/time
- USB drives not purchased with a computer bundle
- Leased items
- iPods
- Items purchased with a cell phone plan (e.g. tablets)
- Repairs to technology

**SOFTWARE** *not allowable*

- Operating software (e.g. Windows)
- Word processing programs (e.g. Microsoft Office)
- Anti-virus software
- Adobe Pro

**SERVICES** *not allowable*

- Internet or cell phone service
- Modem / Systems / gaming consoles (e.g. Xbox)
- Product / service installation
- Zoom membership / subscription

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### Allowable Miscellaneous

- Service plan/warranty for technology (at the time of purchase)
- Sales tax
- Used technology