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.
• 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