

Technology Evaluations

With assistive technology, YOU are empowered through the ability to access employment information on your own, which helps you prepare for and be successful on the job.

The advancement of technology has opened many doors for those who are blind or visually impaired. It's allowed individuals to pursue a wide variety of career interests. People who are visually impaired use assistive technology to perform tasks and functions they couldn't do otherwise. For example, many use it to access printed materials, research information on the internet, write documents, send emails, and organize information.

What you can expect

If you are employed, starting a new job, or headed to school, you may benefit from an assistive technology assessment. Your counselor will refer you to the technology consultant who works closely with DBVI, and who will contact you directly to set up a time to meet.

The consultant will help evaluate required work tasks and identify the appropriate assistive technology.

The consultant will:

- Evaluate your job site
- Analyze the tasks that you do
- Identify the best and most appropriate technology for you, and make these recommendations to your DBVI counselor

Either DBVI or your employer will purchase the needed equipment. The technology consultant and IT people where you work or go to school will make arrangements to set up the equipment for you.

Here's what you do

Using assistive technology helps you to increase your performance at work or in school. To get the most out of this technology, here are some tips:

- It's important to be well rested and on time for your assistive technology appointment.
- You'll need to answer questions and demonstrate your abilities to use different types of technology.
- If equipment is purchased, you should schedule a time for an initial demonstration.

- You may be referred to DBVI's assistive technology trainer to learn specific skills for using your new assistive technology.
- It may also be recommended that you take a local course to learn programs like MS Word or Outlook for email.
- Remember, equipment purchased by DBVI is the property of the State of Vermont. It is your responsibility to take care of it. Please refer to the DBVI equipment agreement.

Examples of assistive technology

- Screen enlargement software to magnify the text on your computer
- Screen reading software that uses synthesized speech to read the text on your computer
- Video magnifiers, also called closed-circuit televisions, that enlarge printed materials using a camera to display the enlarged text on a screen