



# Unlocking the potential of all learners

By Kelli Hodges

Assistive technology can revolutionize the lives of students with special needs. By providing a single source for acquiring, managing, and servicing assistive technology, Dell, working with Intel, empowers students to meet their goals.



## A model for lifelong learning

Technology is at the heart of the programs offered by the Training, Education, and Research Institute (TERI). Discover how the Dell Assistive Technology Service helps TERI carry out its mission of improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities.

[dell.com/teri](http://dell.com/teri)

For students with special needs, assistive technology promotes independence and helps provide a voice. Technologies such as text-to-speech software, magnifying screens, and touch-screen monitors help students engage in classroom and everyday-life activities by facilitating communication and enabling access to the world around them (see the sidebar, “Opening the door through video modeling”).

However, obtaining the best assistive technology for individual students in a timely manner can be a complex process. Because every individual requires a customized solution, acquiring and implementing assistive technology may strain a school’s infrastructure—not to mention its overall funding and resource allocation.

In K–12, students with special needs go through a series of assessments to identify assistive technology that is suited to their overall educational needs and quality of life. In higher education, the disabled student services office helps self-identified students with special needs acquire assistive technology to meet their educational requirements.

To obtain the right mix of special hardware and software, educators must manage a procurement process that involves multiple purchase orders to different vendors. After tracking the orders to verify that the equipment has arrived on-site, they must then figure out how to install and configure the various components. In the meantime, students need to receive their assistive technology devices rapidly to help them learn at the same pace as their

## Expediting the acquisition of assistive technology

To help students quickly obtain the proper assistive technology devices, Dell has teamed up with assistive technology integrator Electronic Vision Access Solutions (EVAS) to develop the eCONSULT tool. Using eCONSULT, educators can obtain recommendations on best-of-breed software and hardware that meet the needs of a student’s particular disability.

Since 1979, EVAS has offered a wide range of access devices for people who are visually, physically, hearing, or learning disabled. EVAS provides powerful assistive technologies that are pretested, installed, and configured on Dell desktop and laptop computers powered by Intel processors.

classmates. Students, educators, and parents all need training on both hardware and software. In addition, schools must support and service the devices throughout the student's time at the institution.

### Streamlined adoption

Proper planning and management helps streamline the process of acquiring and adopting assistive technology for students, parents, IT administrators, and disabled student services offices. The Dell™ Assistive Technology Service provides access to best-of-breed technology and acts as a single source for procuring, implementing, and supporting assistive hardware and software.

Dell and Intel have worked together to enable schools and universities to easily integrate assistive technology into their IT infrastructures. Dell platforms powered by Intel® Core™ i5 and i7 vPro™ processors are well suited for compute-intensive assistive technology systems. The Intel technology helps simplify the deployment, implementation, and remote management of the assistive technology systems.

Dell has also teamed with Electronic Vision Access Solutions (EVAS), an assistive technology provider, to deliver integrated high-quality hardware, software, and peripherals developed specifically to meet the requirements of students with special needs. (For more information, see the sidebar, "Expediting the acquisition of assistive technology.")

The Dell Assistive Technology Service facilitates the implementation of assistive technologies. For example, a single consolidated delivery avoids the need to manage and track shipments from multiple vendors. Dell handles pre-staging of hardware to help ensure functionality where appropriate, as well as custom factory-integration services such as imaging, asset reporting, and asset tagging relating to special-needs claim IDs. In addition, Dell provides scheduled installation services with advance notice of deliveries.

Training and support are critical for helping a student succeed with assistive devices, which are often used at home as well as at school. A dedicated team trains students, parents, educators, and specialists on the devices. Direct access to both instructional and technical support is also available to enhance the overall learning experience for each student.

### Focus on learning

By providing a single point of contact through which educational institutions can acquire, integrate, and support assistive technologies, Dell enables educators to reduce the amount of time spent on administrative tasks related to deploying technology that empowers students with special needs. As a result, schools can stay focused on their most important goal: delivering an outstanding education for every student. **PS**



## Opening the door through video modeling

Meet Chris, a 24-year-old in the autism spectrum. Chris was silent until he was introduced to music on his 23rd birthday. He began interacting with musical instruments and could model his teacher playing the piano. Through video modeling, the teacher started taping the playing sessions so Chris could mirror the teacher's hands. Chris would then sit at the piano and play while watching the video on his Dell Latitude™ ST tablet powered by the Intel Atom™ processor. Six months later, Chris began to sing. Chris now knows how to read music and is communicating—all thanks to assistive technology.

### Author

**Kelli Hodges** is the strategic alliance manager for the Dell Global Education team. She has more than 21 years of experience in special education, digital content, and implementation.

### Learn more

**Dell assistive technology for K–12:**  
[dell.com/k12/ats](http://dell.com/k12/ats)

**Dell assistive technology for higher education:**  
[dell.com/hied/ats](http://dell.com/hied/ats)