

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 computer or tablet, but applies to all high-ticket items, i.e., any item over \$600.00.

Categories of Educational Technology

- **Vision** - Products designed to assist with vision. **Categories:** (1) Magnifiers including CCTV systems; (2) screen readers; (3) screen magnifiers; (4) Braille displays
- **Hearing** - Products designed to assist with hearing. **Categories:** (1) Personal amplification systems (e.g., 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** - Devices that provide people with disabilities access to educational materials and instruction; products that assist with learning and cognition. **Categories:** (1) Calculators; (2) Visual Timers; (3) Electronic Notetaking/Recording Devices (e.g. reading pens, notetaking pens, digital recorders, digital notebooks; (4) E-book readers (e.g., Kindle)
- **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: *Limitations*

- Accessories for a computer, interactive whiteboard, or tablet need to be ordered within 30 calendar days of the approved order for the device (if not purchased all at once as a bundle), once every three years.
- Allowable accessories include wireless or corded mouse, printer, cables, a case (for an iPad for example), a carrying case/bag for a laptop, or external speakers. Computers and accessories do not have to be the same brand or purchased from the same store.

Computers and related: *Headphones*

- Headphones are not allowable 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

Miscellaneous included items:

- Service plan / warranty for technology (purchased within 30 calendar days of the approved order for the device, if not purchased all at once as a bundle)
- Sales tax
- Used technology

Excluded items (not an exhaustive list):

DEVICES *not allowable*

- Cell phones
- Televisions
- Cameras / photography equipment
- Google Nest / Alexa Hubs
- 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 (e.g., devices)
- Digital calendars (e.g., Skylight calendar)

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

Nothing in this document should be construed to supersede the Program Statute, Program Rules or other Program policies. In addition, these policies do not represent an exhaustive list of all Program rules: rather these policies are set forth to provide a broad overview of the Program. See the Program Rules and Statues on the Program [website](#) for more details.