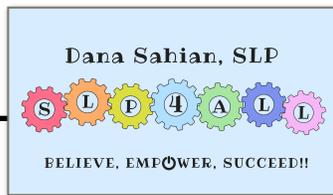


## **Top Ten Reasons Why iPads are Better Assistive Technology Tools than Computers for Students with Learning Differences and ADHD!!**

- 1. *There are a plethora of Assistive Technology tools built into the operating system of the iPad.***
  - Traditional “assistive technology” tools such as word prediction, text-to-speech and voice recognition are built into the iPad. Not only are they easy to use, but they are mainstream and therefore don’t have the effect of making students feel different.
- 2. *Using the iPad, students can easily modify their own school-work.***
  - Using the iPad, it is easy for students to modify their own school-work.
  - This encourages students to be self-advocates and to be self-reliant
  - They can declutter busy worksheets, add Speech-to-Text or sync audio recordings to almost any worksheet.
- 3. *Apps, Tools and Systems are easy for students to learn.***
  - Students quickly learn how to use their different tools for all of their school work. Usually just three or four training sessions are needed for students to become independent at using their Assistive Technology systems.
  - They don’t need the teachers to know how to operate their tools.
- 4. *The iPad can be used as a scanner and therefore help students go paperless!***
  - Thanks to the amazing camera on the iPad, it can be used to convert paper documents into PDFs.
  - Students who constantly lose their notes, forget them at home or school, or simply just can not keep their papers organized, become super-organized once they go paperless.
  - For those who find reading and/or reading comprehension difficult, their work gets converted into a format that works with text-to-speech, once scanned.
- 5. *You can take pictures of the board and insert them directly into your notes.***
  - Almost every note taking app that you can download from the App Store has the option to take photos and insert into your work. Instead of copying word-for-word everything your teacher has written on the board, take a picture and then use your time to listen to the class discussion or teacher’s examples and take notes on that instead!
  - Or, read through the notes on your picture and highlight the key vocabulary words or information the teacher said you need to know for your upcoming test.



**6. You can write on documents using a “pen” (Apple Pencil or other stylus) so you are not limited to typing.**

- Your iPad can be used as a sheet of paper. Using a stylus, you can write on your PDF documents
- Your handwriting can also be converted into text!
- You can also write on a blank page, lined page or graph paper using a stylus.

**7. Students should not need to ‘check’ their Assistive Technology tools at the door when they leave school.**

- The iPad can be used for school tasks such as note taking, reading, essay writing, organization, time-management, researching, studying and test taking.
- Tools that students need when in school are the same tools they need when they leave. iPhones can be used in the same manner as their larger counterpart.

**8. Text-to-Speech and Speech-to-Text work seamlessly in every app.**

- Enables students to access books and other reading materials at their interest and cognitive levels.
- Helps students understand questions better and make fewer mistakes when reading.
- Helps students immediately ‘show what they know’.
- Students quickly gain confidence in their writing when they see how easy it is for them to get their thoughts from head to “pad”.
- Right from the outset, students add more detail to their writing, use better vocabulary and have more stamina to do more work when compared to their pencil/paper work.
- Enables students to be as productive as they are smart.

**9. They are lighter than laptops, hardly ever break down and turn on/off instantly.**

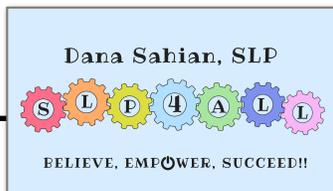
- You can attach a keyboard to an iPad, turning it into a laptop with the added “tablet” benefits.
- No more waiting for your device to boot up so you can get to work right away and complete your work in class without having to bring it home for homework.

**10. iPads are cool and Stigma-Free!**

- Plain and simple. No one can argue that.
- Students do not feel stigmatized when using iPads in the classroom.

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### **Common Q & A's:**

#### **1. My school says they only support Chromebooks.**

It is the belief of this writer that Chromebooks make good classroom tools for schools using Google Classroom. That said, they are not 'the best' assistive technology tools as they only scratch the surface in regards to the different tools that most students with learning differences require, to fully and seamlessly access curriculum. Given that Google is cloud-based, Google tools can be accessed on any device. The benefit of accessing Google tools on the iPad is that you also have all of the inherent benefits of the iPad in addition to the Google tools.

#### **2. My school says they don't support iPads. Will my child still be able to use an iPad in the classroom?**

Yes! In fact, most teachers quickly change their minds about iPads once they see the amazing things students can do with them. Most teachers end up wishing that ALL of their students had iPads once they see the incredible tools and systems that exist.

Schools really are not allowed to say what tools they support for assistive technology, especially if the tools were recommended by a professional. It would be like saying "Sorry, we only support the use of near-sighted glasses, but not far-sighted" or "we only allow board-prescribed hearing aids, not those prescribed by a non-school board audiologist". Read this excerpt taken from the IEP Guidelines put out by the Ministry of Ontario:

##### *5.3 Individualized Equipment*

*This category includes any type or item of equipment or any electronic product or system commercially produced, modified, or custom-made to maintain, increase, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. Examples of individualized equipment include the following:*

*"Individualized equipment is intended to maintain, increase, or improve the student's ability to learn and demonstrate learning. (The equipment identified in the IEP should not be limited to the equipment for which boards receive additional funding.)"*

*- Special Education in Ontario, Kindergarten to Grade 12, Policy and Resource Guide, 2017, pg E42.*

#### **\* For additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact:**

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