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## Systems Limitations Hamper Integration of Accessible Information Technology in Northwest U.S. K-12 Schools

This article has a lot to contribute to research on why technology needs to be integrated into schools everywhere. It focuses on AIT and laws pertaining to special education, people with disabilities, and it addresses communication gaps between assistive technology specialists, teachers, and parents. Accessible information technology helps make equal education opportunities possible. Many schools in K-12 present accessibility barriers for students with disabilities.

A study was conducted through a series of interviews to get information about people's knowledge of various laws regarding IT, and its implementation into the schools. The semi-structured interview addressed areas of current uses and purposes of IT at schools, and participant-identified gaps and training needs. Lack of funds and training contribute greatly to inadequate knowledge and resources regarding technology in the classroom. The study may not have been considered the most effective way of gaining information about people's knowledge, but it did provide considerable information regarding where to start looking for ways to communicate and work collaboratively on issues that hinder IT implementation.

School officials, psychologists, teachers, parents, and accessible technology specialist all need to create opportunities that assist them with addressing problems that exist. It has been suggested that outside agencies such as ADA and IT centers be used as a liaison and provide training to teachers about accessible information technology. These agencies can provide up to date information regarding school responsibilities for accessibility. It has been suggested that the school psychologist take on added responsibilities and learn more about technology and the laws so they could ensure meeting students needs and better complying with federal regulations. Teachers often complain about having to be responsible for IT. Some school districts only want to deal with lack of accessibility on an individual case by case basis. There needs to be systematic improvements to the accessibility of technology for all students.

I learned that special education in some schools are not following the law and making accessible information technology available. Accessible information technology is a vital link to education especially those with disabilities. There needs to be more shared knowledge and training. A much needed restructuring of some of the educational frameworks and the

willingness of these systems to apply for grants for funding. When the schools can reprioritize what is needed for them to be more effective, teaching and learning can take place.

Wisdom, J.P, White, N, Goldsmith, K, Bielavitz, S, & Rees, A. (2007). Systems limitations hamper integration of accessible information technology in northwest u.s. k-12 schools. *Educational Technology and Society*, 10(3), 222-232.