

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Policy 2.31 Technology First	Effective: 10/27/2022
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TECHNOLOGY FIRST

POLICY

A vast majority of citizens with disabilities across the nation, Ohio, and Stark County could benefit from the use of supportive technology solutions. The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities supports "Technology First". This is the belief that each person shall be offered the opportunity to explore technology solutions to enhance personal freedom, ability to communicate, establish meaningful relationships, perform tasks to obtain/maintain employment, and increase and/or maintain independence. Under the Technology First approach, technology solutions are the first option for supportive services and shall be integrated in to their Individual Service Plan (ISP).

As part of the person-centered planning process, technology solutions shall be explored and used to the greatest extent possible. The Board is committed to making technology solutions for individuals with developmental disabilities a high priority despite the challenges in the comfortability and understanding related to using such supports.

The Board will address the ability to increase capacity and benchmarks to increase the number of individuals who will benefit from technology solutions. Beginning in 2023, the Board will aim to increase the use of supportive technology by 5% per (waiver) caseloads per year. The Board will include increasing technology solutions in its annual goals and review and update as such.

In an effort to increase the level of knowledge, skill, and comfort of staff related to assessing tech needs, the Board shall enact regular, required training for staff regarding how to assess and access resources related to the use of technology solutions. The Stark County Technology Collaborative, which consists of stakeholders, will continue to provide support in this area. The use of the Ohio ISP will enable regular discussions around technology supports.

Historical Resolution Information	Reviewer(s):
Date Resolution Number	Director of SSA
9/27/2022 09-50-22	Superintendent