

# Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program

## Online News

October 12, 2012

### **ADAP needs your help!**

As you know, federal law requires that polling places be physically accessible to people with disabilities. While state and local election officials usually take some measures to make polling locations accessible on Election Day, physical barriers still exist at many polling locations throughout the state. With this in mind, ADAP would like to know whether your polling location is accessible on Election Day.

ADAP and the League of Women Voters of Alabama have partnered together to create a one-page, simple to use, polling place accessibility [checklist](#). This checklist, which is based upon the Accessibility Guidelines established by the Americans with Disabilities Act, looks at some of the most common barriers to accessibility. Please take the time to print a copy of this survey, carry the survey with you when you vote on November 8, complete the survey while voting, and then return the survey to ADAP.

The information we gather by using this checklist will allow ADAP to work with election officials to ensure that polling place accessibility issues are corrected for future elections. Together, we can ensure that no eligible Alabama voter is denied access to his or her assigned polling location.

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### **Students with Diabetes**

Did you know that federal law makes it illegal for schools to discriminate against students with diabetes? Diabetes is considered a disability under federal law; therefore, if your child has diabetes, she cannot be denied admission to school or required to attend a different school because of her condition. Moreover, she does not have to be suffering academically to be eligible for accommodations at school. Your child's specific needs at school should be documented in a written plan developed under applicable federal law. Contact your school's Special Education Coordinator and request that your child be evaluated for services under these laws.

For more information on diabetes care in schools, check out these resources:

<http://www.diabetes.org/assets/pdfs/schools/rights-and-tips-al-students.docx>

<http://www.diabetes.org/living-with-diabetes/parents-and-kids/diabetes-care-at-school/>

Questions? Contact ADAP at (800) 826-1675 or via email at [adap@adap.ua.edu](mailto:adap@adap.ua.edu).

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### **Assistive Technology**

What is Assistive Technology? How can assistive technology assist persons with disabilities in living independently? Come to the Alabama Assistive Technology Expo and Conference and find out! October 22-23, 2012 at the Auburn University Student Center.

Click the following link for more information about the ALATEC Expo and Conference and learn about the newest assistive technology and how it can help you. <http://www.auburn.edu/outreach/opce/alatec/>

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### **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS Forums**

The Alabama Youth Justice Alliance will be hosting two KNOW YOUR RIGHTS Forums on Thursday, October 11, 2012 and Thursday, October 18, 2012 at Grace Episcopal Church, 5712 First Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama (*on the corner of 57th Street North and 1st Avenue North*). The forums start at 6:30PM. These forums will give youth and their parents an opportunity to learn from attorneys, advocates, and other volunteers about their rights when interacting with police, in the juvenile justice system, and more. Youth will learn how to advocate for themselves through role plays, videos, and presentations.

ADAP will be presenting on Special Education rights on Thursday, October 18, 2012. The Alabama Youth Justice Alliance (AYJA) is an alliance of youth-interested advocates, organizations, groups, coalitions, and families who are dedicated to ensuring that Alabama's youth have the tools and opportunities necessary to grow into healthy, responsible, productive, and happy adults. Alliance members support each other through organized collaboration and connectivity while working with the legislature, child-serving agencies, juvenile and family courts, youth, families, and communities to develop education and juvenile justice reforms that build a stronger and safer Alabama for our children.

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### **Assistive Technology**

Assistive Technology is an [umbrella term](#) that includes assistive, adaptive, and rehabilitative devices for [people with disabilities](#) and also includes the process used in selecting, locating, and using them. AT promotes greater independence by enabling people to perform tasks that they were formerly unable to accomplish, or had great difficulty accomplishing, by providing enhancements to, or changing methods of interacting with, the [technology](#) needed to accomplish such tasks.

If you just can't get enough, and want a larger expo and conference involving information about assistive technology and adaptive and rehabilitative devices, consider attending the Abilities Expo in Atlanta, Georgia – IT's FREE! February 18-23, 2013. [http://www.abilitiesexpo.com/atlanta/pavilions\\_assistive.html](http://www.abilitiesexpo.com/atlanta/pavilions_assistive.html)

We at ADAP are interested in hearing from you if you need help in acquiring assistive technology to assist you with everyday tasks. Funding for assistive technology may be available through a Medicaid waiver, a school as part of a special education program, an employer as a reasonable accommodation, or other sources. Contact ADAP at 1800-826-1675 for an intake to discuss how ADAP may be able to assist you.

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### **Assistive Technology (AT) Survey for Parents**

*How do schools plan for and provide AT to students with disabilities?*

Assistive technology (AT) can help children with disabilities participate more independently in their schools.

It can help them access and progress in their coursework.

AT can be low tech (ex. pencil grips) or high tech (ex. augmentative communication devices or touch screens).

Federal and state law require a child's IEP Team to consider his need for AT.

ADAP wants to understand how your IEP Team considered your child's need for AT, how satisfied you are with how AT was planned for your child, and how AT is provided. This will help us determine how we can improve access to AT for Alabama students.

If you are the parent of a child with a disability, please complete this short [on-line survey](#)-- whether your child presently uses AT or not.

Questions? Contact ADAP at (800) 826-1675 or via email at [adap@adap.ua.edu](mailto:adap@adap.ua.edu).

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**HAVE PRESENTATION. WILL TRAVEL.**

Are you a member of a group that needs a speaker for an upcoming meeting? If so, ADAP can fill this need. ADAP staff provides education/training sessions on a wide variety of disability-related topics including, but not limited to: the Americans with Disabilities Act, Medicaid waivers, guardianships, special education, general disability rights, and transition services for youth who will soon become adults. We will also speak on specifically requested, disability-related topics.

If you are interested in making arrangements for ADAP to come speak at one of your meetings, please contact Anita Davidson, one of ADAP's Legal Assistants, by calling 205-348-5107, or emailing her, [akdavidson@adap.ua.edu](mailto:akdavidson@adap.ua.edu).

The University of Alabama  
[Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program](#)  
Box 870395 - Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0395  
web site: <http://www.adap.net>  
e-mail: [adap@adap.ua.edu](mailto:adap@adap.ua.edu)

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