

# STUDENT SPECIFIC EVALUATION AND CONSULTATION

## Our Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Consultation program offers:

- Student AAC Evaluations
- Follow-up treatment and/or consultation/collaboration
- Short term provision of direct services with the intention of expanding district capacity
- Consultation, collaboration and coaching with district Speech-Language Pathologists and educational teams on AAC and other issues related to communication goals for students having complex communication needs
- Consultation and support on the purchase and utilization of AAC devices



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Examples of presentations include:

- AAC implementation across home, school and community settings
- Modeling & aided language input
- Data collection and AAC
- Running AAC group lessons
- Family and caregiver education to maximize AAC home use
- Supporting AAC users in the general education classroom
- Use of the SETT Framework (Student, Environment, Tasks and Tools)



# REFERRAL PROCESS

## Who is Eligible?

Speech-Language Pathologists, teachers, and teams working with students having complex communication needs who would benefit from support in any area related to AAC.

We are available to help support you with these types of challenges in your school setting.

We are accepting referrals for consultation, student specific services and district professional development.



# WHAT IS AAC?

As stated by the Massachusetts DESE Technical Assistance Advisory SPED 2018-3, **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)** is a form of assistive technology that can help students with disabilities communicate to meet their education goals and participate fully alongside their nondisabled peers in all aspects of their education, while also giving them an opportunity to communicate and interact with others.

AAC generally refers to methods of communication that enhance (augment) or replace natural speech and other conventional forms of expressive and receptive communication. AAC includes natural communication such as vocalizations, facial expressions, and gestures, as well as communication devices and aids accompanied by services that support the use of AAC. It includes speech-generating devices and other types of assistive technology, as well as low-tech aids such as picture communication boards and books.

For many years, voice output, or AAC devices have been used to help those with developmental or acquired disabilities communicate successfully. Use of a total communication approach with AAC devices and systems, offers tremendous possibilities in helping students communicate based upon their unique needs.

# MISSION

The mission of the Northshore Education Consortium is to support member districts by offering high quality, cost-effective school programs, consultation, professional development, support services and resources to ensure that districts can provide successful learning experiences for all students, including those with complex or low-incidence special needs.

## Collaborative Consultation for AAC

Referral & Contact Information:

**Jennifer Leighton, M.A., CCC-SLP**  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
AAC Program Coordinator  
[jleighton@nsedu.org](mailto:jleighton@nsedu.org)  
978-232-9755 x 1320

### MEMBER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Beverly, Danvers, Gloucester, Hamilton-Wenham Regional, Ipswich, Lynn, Lynnfield, Manchester-Essex Regional, Marblehead, Masconomet Regional, Nahant, North Reading, Peabody, Pentucket Regional, Reading, Rockport, Salem, Swampscott, Triton Regional Schools, Tri-Town Elementary Union

# Collaborative Consultation for AAC



NORTHSORE  
EDUCATION  
CONSORTIUM

*Expanding the capacity of districts to meet Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) needs by providing evaluation, direct service, consultation, and professional development*