

Ipads for Soldotna High School's Special Education: Intensive Needs Department

Since 2001, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has seen a 362% increase in the number of students served that have some form of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). ASD is a disability that affects an individual's ability to communicate, understand social situations, and realize social norms. Often, these individuals are highly intelligent, but their ability to verbally convey what they need or want is a major hurdle. Their inability to effectively communicate results in them feeling trapped inside their own body, yearning to let others know what they need, but being incapable to concisely relay this information to people around them. For those who do not understand social situations and social norms, this can lead to long-term unemployment and difficulty in creating/maintaining friendships. Fortunately, there are now tools available to assist them in having a more productive and fulfilling life. The use of an iPad as a communication and learning tool has shown to break these individuals out of their shell and result in a metamorphosis, in which they become more confident in themselves as well as more engaged in the learning process.

Within the classroom, the iPads would also be used as a supplement to assist the learning process for students with learning and physical disabilities. Elliot M. Soloway, a University of Michigan professor of education as well as of electrical engineering and computer science, states, "For a child who may be a little slower learner, struggling with reading, has an arm that doesn't work, the [tablet-style] computer has all these modalities, sound and touch. The technology can compensate for the special-needs kids in a way that traditional media cannot compensate." Our goal at Soldotna High School is to produce young men and women ready for the next step in life: to prepare individuals for the workforce and to increase their ability to reach their personal goals. The addition of iPads to the classroom will make the environment more suitable for the students to achieve their social and academic goals.

Cost Breakdown

Item	Unit Price	Qty	Total
Ipad	\$499.99	6	\$2999.94
Shipping	Free through apple.com		
Total			\$2999.94