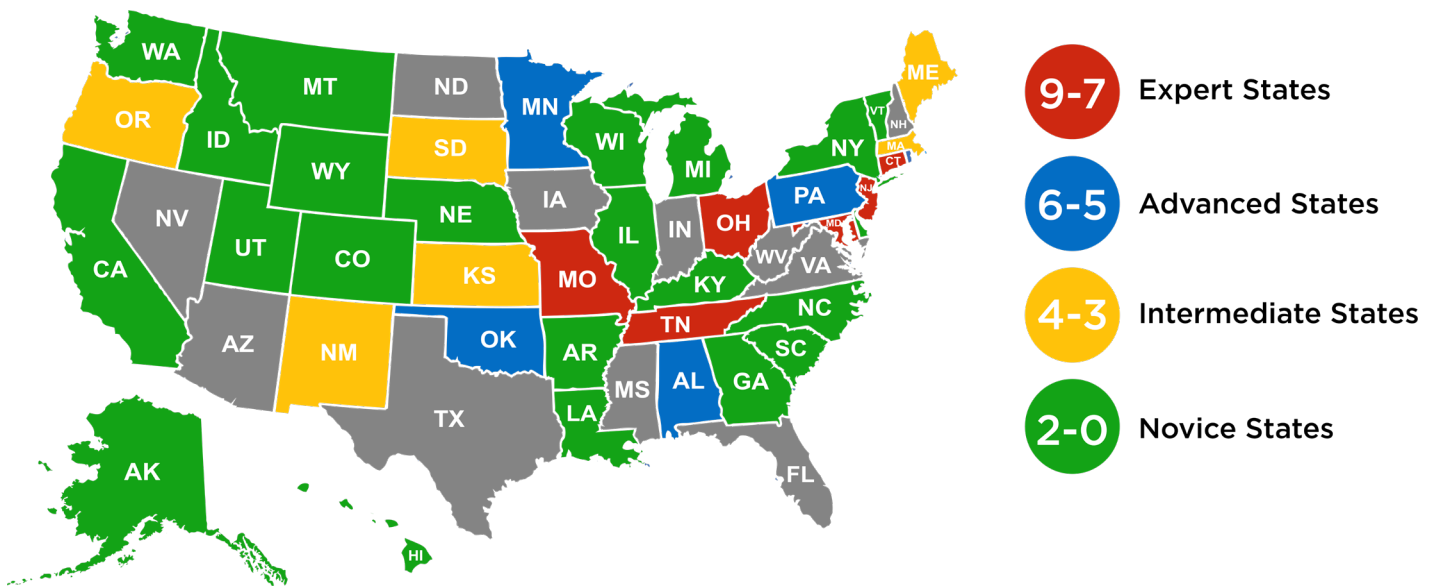Technology First began as a movement but has transformed to a "framework for systems change where technology is considered first in the discussion of support options available to individuals and families through person-centered approaches to promote meaningful participation, social inclusion, self-determination and quality of life" (E.S., Tanis, 2019).

The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Project has been leading the research and data collection efforts on Technology First across the U.S. In 2023, forty states had Technology First related initiatives and/or legislation.

Number of Technology First Benchmarks

9-7 Expert States

6-5 Advanced States

4-3 Intermediate States

2-0 Novice States

Technology First Benchmarks rank states based on how many benchmarks of the Technology First framework have been met by the state. Novice states are those that have met 2 or fewer benchmarks, while Expert states are those who have met 7-9 benchmarks.

State of the States
In Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Source: Tanis, E.S., et al. (2024). The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Life Span Institute, University of Kansas. www.stateofthestates.ku.edu

Technology First Benchmarks

1 Implementation or advancement of statewide legislation

2 Modernization and harmonization of policies to support technology access

3 Regularly convening a statewide group focused on technology access, services, and programs (ex. Technology First Council)

4 Considerations of technology solutions as a requirement within the Individual Service Plan (ISP) or person-centered service plan

5 Pilot programs for evaluating technology impact for people with I/DD

6 Statewide evaluation of technology needs

7 Statewide data collection plan or protocol for impact evaluation

8 Statewide capacity building for providers and consumers

9 Communications strategy for sharing Technology First enforcement of statewide legislation

THE FIRSTS

Employment · Technology · Person

1ST

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