

ABCs of Special Education

This tip sheet is created to assist educational professionals, students, and parents in understanding acronyms specific to special education to facilitate a collaborative and student-focused special education process.



504	Section 504 of the Rehabilitations Act of 1973	DOJ	Department of Justice
AAC	Alternative Augmentative Communication	DSM-5	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th Edition)
ABA	Applied Behavior Analysis	ED	Emotional Disturbance
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	EHA	Education for All Handicapped Children Act (predecessor to IDEA)
ADA	Average Daily Attendance	EL	English Learner
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	ESL	English as a Second Language
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution	ESY	Extended School Year
AEA	Area Education Agency	FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge	FBA	Functional Behavioral Assessment
APE	Adaptive Physical Education	FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder	HHI	Home/Hospital Instruction
ASL	American Sign Language	IA	Instructional Aide
AT	Assistive Technology	IAES	Interim Alternative Educational Setting
BCBA	Board Certified Behavior Analyst	ID	Intellectual Disability
BIP	Behavioral Intervention Plan	IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
CART	Communication Access Realtime Translation	IEE	Independent Educational Evaluation
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	IEP	Individualized Education Program
DDSDP	District Developed Service Delivery Plan	IFSP	Individualized Family Services Plan
DHH	Deaf and Hard of Hearing	IS	Independent Study

ISP	Individualized Service Plan	OT	Occupational Therapy
ITP	Individualized Transition Plan	PDD	Pervasive Developmental Disorder
IWEN	Individual with Exceptional Needs	PWN	Prior Written Notice
LEP	Limited English Proficient	RTI	Response to Intervention
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment	SBE	State Board of Education
MD	Manifestation Determination	SEA	State Education Agency
NPA	Nonpublic Agency	SEAP	Special Education Advisory Panel
NPS	Nonpublic School	SDI	Specially Designed Instruction
O & M	Orientation and Mobility	SLD	Specific Learning Disability
OCD	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	SLI	Speech or Language Impairment
OCR	Office for Civil Rights	SWD	Students with Disabilities
ODD	Oppositional Defiant Disorder	TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
OHI	Other Health Impairment	USC	United States Code
OI	Orthopedic Impairment	USDOE	United States Department of Education
OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs	VI	Visual Impairment
OSERS	Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services		

THIS GUIDE IS A SUMMARY ONLY AND NOT LEGAL ADVICE. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU CONSULT WITH LEGAL COUNSEL TO DETERMINE HOW THIS MAY APPLY TO YOUR SPECIFIC FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

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