

ABCs of Special Education



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

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

IFSP	Individualized Family Services Plan	OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs
IHO	Impartial Hearing Officer	OSERS	Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services
IS	Independent Study	OT	Occupational Therapy
ISS	In-School Suspension	PBIS	Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
ISA	Individual Services Agreement	PDD	Pervasive Developmental Disorder
ISP	Individualized Service Plan	PLAAFP	Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance
ITP	Individualized Transition Plan	PT	Physical Therapy
IWEN	Individual with Exceptional Needs	PWN	Prior Written Notice
LCI	Licensed Children's Institution	RSP	Resource Specialist Program
LEA	Local Education Agency	RTI	Response to Intervention
LEP	Limited English Proficient	SAI	Specialized Academic Instruction
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment	SBE	State Board of Education
MDR	Manifestation Determination Review	SDC	Special Day Class
MTSS	Multi-Tiered System of Supports	SEA	State Education Agency
NPA	Nonpublic Agency	SELPA	Special Education Local Plan Area
NPS	Nonpublic School	SLD	Specific Learning Disability
O & M	Orientation and Mobility	SLI	Speech or Language Impairment
OAH	Office of Administrative Hearings	SST	Student Study Team
OCD	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	SWD	Students with Disabilities
OCR	Office for Civil Rights	TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
ODD	Oppositional Defiant Disorder	USC	United States Code
OHI	Other Health Impairment	USDOE	United States Department of Education
OI	Orthopedic Impairment	VI	Visual Impairment