






Acronyms and Abbreviations



As you work your way through the special education process, you will encounter a myriad of acronyms and abbreviations. Listed below are some of the most commonly used acronyms and abbreviations.




Acronyms you may hear at an IEP meeting:







AEP - Alternative Education Placement
APE – Adaptive Physical Education
ARD – Admission, Review, & Dismissal
AT – Assistive Technology
BIP – Behavior Intervention Plan
CA – Chronological Age
CBI – Community Based Instruction
CBVI – Community Based Vocational Instruction
CM – Content Mastery
ECI – Early Childhood Intervention
EI – Early Intervention
ESL – English as a Second Language
ESY – Extended School Year
FAPE – Free Appropriate Public Education
FBA – Functional Behavioral Assessment
FERPA – Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act
FIE – Full and Individual Evaluation
IA – Instructional Assistant
IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEE – Independent Educational Evaluation
IEP – Individual Education Plan
ITP – Individual Transition Plan
LRE – Least Restrictive Environment
O&M – Orientation & Mobility
OT – Occupational Therapy
PLAAFP – Present Level of Academic Achievement Functional Performance
PPCD – Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities
PT – Physical Therapy/Therapist
RTI – Response to Intervention
STAAR – State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness
TAC – Texas Administrative Code
TEKS – Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

VAC – Vocational Adjustment Coordinator

Disability Categories:




AI – Auditory Impairment (including Deafness and Hearing Impairment)
AU - Autism
DB – Deaf-Blind
ED – Emotional Disturbance
ID – Intellectual Disability
LD – Learning Disability
MD – Multiple Disabilities
NCEC – Non-Categorical Early Childhood
OI – Orthopedic Impairment
OHI – Other Health Impairment
PD – Physical Disability
SI – Speech Impairment
TBI – Traumatic Brain Injury
VI – Visual Impairment



Local, State and Federal Agencies:





DADS – Department of Aging and Disability Services
DARS – Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
DOE – Department of Education
EEOC – Equal Employment Opportunity
ESC – Education Service Center
LEA – Local Education Agency
OCR – Department of Education Office for Civil Rights
OSEP – Office of Special Education Programs
OSERS – Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
SBOE – State Board of Education
TDHS – Texas Department of Human Services
TEA – Texas Education Agency







Laws Related to Special Education


 **ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act.** The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.


 **CFR – Code of Federal Regulations.** The rules and regulations of federal agencies as published in the *Federal Register*.


 **DD ACT – Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.** The DD Act supports state developmental disabilities councils, state protection and advocacy agencies, university-affiliated programs, and other projects of national significance.


 **EDGAR – Education Department General Administrative Regulations.** These establish uniform administrative requirements for federal grants and agreements.


 **EGA – Education of the Handicapped Act (now IDEA)** the name of the original 1975 legislation entitling children and youth with disabilities to a free appropriate public education.


 **ESEA – The Elementary and Secondary Education Act.** This law contains several federal programs designed to address the needs of disadvantaged students. Now referred to as NCLB (No Child Left Behind).


 **FERPA – Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.** Legislations giving parents the right to inspect and review their child’s educational records, to amend errors or inaccuracies in those records, and to consent to disclosure of records.


 **FOIA – Freedom of Information Act.** This law entitles any person the right to request access to federal agency records or information.


 **IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (formerly EHA).** This law states that children with disabilities have the right to a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment, including procedural protections and the right to an education that is standard based.


 **NPRM – Notice of Proposed Rule Making.** Whenever a federal agency proposes to publish new or amended regulations to enact a law (such as IDEA), the proposed regulations are issued in the *Federal Register* for public review and comment.

 **PASS – Plan for Achieving Self-Support.** A part of the SSI statute that permit the exclusion of income and resources of individuals who are blind or disabled, if an individual needs such income/resources to fulfill an approved PASS.

 **§ – This symbol means “Section”** as in “§300.7 Child with a disability” as written in the IDEA regulations.

 **Section 504 – Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.** A civil rights statute designed to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

 **SSI – Supplemental Security Income.** A supplemental cash benefits program administered by the Social Security Administration for individuals who are blind or have other disabilities who have little or no income or resources.

 **TEC – Texas Education Code.** State laws that govern the provision of public education to children of Texas. In some cases, these laws give families additional rights beyond the federal law and regulations.



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