

Special Education Terminology

A B E F I L M O P R S T #

A

Accommodations A change, such as how a student is taught or what materials are used in instruction, to aid in their success within the regular course of study.

Annual Review (AR) An annual meeting with a team authorized to allocate funds that consists of a case manager, teachers, and related service providers to review the child's program over the last year and plan for the upcoming year.

Antecedent Behavior Consequences Chart (ABC) A tool used to track and examine a child's behavior in relation to what is going on in the environment around them.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) The method of studying a child's behavior to develop intervention plans and bring about positive change.

Assistive Technology Act The legal requirement for teachers to provide instruction using the appropriate devices that are necessary to communicate with students with disabilities.

Augmentative and Alternative Education (AAC) This includes each of the methods that can be used to communicate effectively in the place of or in addition to speech, such as devices or strategies.

B

Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) The written document with a plan for positive support, intervention, and strategies for addressing problem behavior.

Bilingual Special Education (BSE) Specialized program for students who require instruction in a language other than English.

Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA) The department that conducts hearings and issues rulings regarding matters related to special education.

E

Early Intervention (EI) Programs for developmentally delayed children, birth to 36 months (3 years) old, that are designed to prevent problems as the child grows.

Eligibility Meeting A meeting held to first admit a student into a special education program, then check the child's progress.

Extended School Year Services (ESY) A program for students who require services or instruction beyond the regular academic year, often referring to summer school.

F

Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) This means that special education and related services are provided to the student by the public, not at the expense of the parent.

Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) The process used by schools to figure out the cause of concerning behavior.

I

IEP Team The committee of parents, teachers, school personnel, medical professionals, and other parties that provides services to the student through reviewing assessment results and determining goals, objectives, and placement for the child.

Inclusion The practice of providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized.

Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) Parents of a student who may be eligible for special education have the right to request an IEE if they disagree with legally required school district assessments. An IEE is conducted by an examiner who is not employed by the school district, and is provided at no cost to the parent by the school district.

Indirect Assessment Information to evaluate the student outside of work samples, including interviews and surveys.

Individualized Education Program (IEP) The written document stating the goals, objectives, and services for students with disabilities receiving special education.

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Providing early intervention services for children ages 0-3 with special needs through identifying needs and developing a written plan that is reviewed periodically.

Individualized Transition Plan (ITP) The plan starting at age 14 that is created to address areas of post-school activities, post secondary education, employment, community experiences and daily living skills.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) This ensures that children with disabilities are entitled to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to meet their needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living.

L

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) The school district ensures that a student who has disabilities is educated with students who do not have disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate.

M

Modifications Changes made to curriculum that allow a person with a disability to fully participate in an activity.

O

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Government department dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities through age 22 by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts.

P

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) One of two assessments created to enable states to track and compare students' progress in mastering the Common Core State Standards.

Prior Written Notice (PWN) A written explanation required under IDEA of a change the school district wants to make or refuses to make in a child's IEP.

R

Resource Specialist Program (RSP) A program that provides instruction, materials and support services to students with identified disabilities who are assigned to general classroom for more than 50% of their school day.

S

Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) A district-level, parent-driven group that provides input to the local school district on system-level challenges in special education and related services.

“Stay Put” The right of a student to stay in their most recent education placement that was agreed upon by the school and parents until a dispute is resolved.

T

Technical Assistance & Dissemination Network (TA&D) The OSEP’s vehicle for providing educators, policymakers, service providers, and families with information on effective practices for meeting the needs of children with disabilities.

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504 Plan A plan ensuring that a child, with a suspected disability that is attending a primary or secondary educational institution, receives accommodations to support their academic success and access to the learning environment.