

COMMON ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACRONYMS	TERM	DEFINITION
APE	Adapted Physical Education	A service provided by school districts consisting of physical education to students whose disabilities interfere with their participation in mainstream physical education.
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution	An interest-based approach to resolving disagreements between parties. ADR includes mediation.
ABA	Applied Behavioral Analysis	Behavior-analytic approach frequently used to teach student with autism. Discrete Trial Training (DTT methods rely on ABA approach.)
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder	A condition identified as a medical diagnosis by the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV-Revised (DSM IV-R). Related to condition of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). Although it is not an eligibility category under the IDEA, children with this condition may be eligible for special education under other categories or under Section 504. (See Ed. Code, § 56339)
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder	A group of disorders that includes autism and non-autistic pervasive development disorders (PDD) not otherwise specified (NOS), Fragile X Syndrome, Rett's Syndrome and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder.
BIP	Behavioral Intervention Plan	A written document, which is developed when an individual exhibits a serious behavior problem that significantly interferes with the implementation of the goals of the individual's IEP. The behavioral intervention plan becomes part of the IEP. LEAs are required to develop a BIP in some circumstances for students with behavioral problems. (See Ed. Code, § 56523.)
CAC	Community Advisory Committee	A group of parents, community members, and district staff appointed by, and responsible to, the SELPA. It advises the SELPA in the development and implementation of the local plan for special education. It also assists in parent education and public involvement in the development of the local plan and supporting activities on behalf of students with disabilities.
DIS	Designated Instruction and Services	Transportation and such development corrective and other supportive services as may be required to assist a student with a disability to benefit from special education. Also known in IDEA as related services. School districts are required to provide whatever DIS (other than medical care which is not for diagnostic purposes) a child needs in order to benefit from his or her special education program. (20 U.S.C. § 1402(26); 34C.F.R. § 300.24; and Ed. Code, § 56363.)
EC	California Education Code	The body of statutes that governs education, including special education, in the State of California.

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ED	Emotionally Disturbed	An emotional problem that has existed for a period of time, to a marked degree, that adversely affects a child's educational performance. This is a category of eligibility for special education. (20 U.S.C. § 1401(3)& (30); 34C.F.R. § 300.81(4)(i); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 3030, subd. (i).)
ESY	Extended School Year	The special education program provided between school sessions when the IEP team determines they are needed to prevent regression of skills. ESY services are required to be included in the IEP and provided to the pupil if the pupil's IEP team determines, on an individual basis, that the services are necessary for the provision of a FAPE to the pupil. (Ed.Code, § 56345(b)(3), citing 34 CFR § 300.309.)
FERPA	Family Education Rights and Privacy Act	A federal law that regulates the management of student records and disclosure of information from those records. FERPA mandates confidentiality of special education matters, including confidentiality of names of special education students. FERPA has its own administrative enforcement mechanism (not covered by due process hearings).
FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education	Every school age child with a disability is entitled to an education that meets his/her individual needs, which is at no cost to parents. Specifically, FAPE refers to special education and related services that (1) are provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without charge; (2) meet the standards of the state educational agency, including the requirements of the federal regulations for the education of children with disabilities; (3) include an appropriate preschool, elementary, or secondary school education in the state involved; and (4) are provided in conformity with a qualifying individualized education program. (20 U.S.C. § 1401(9); 34 CFR §300.17; Ed Code § 56040.)
FAA	Functional Analysis Assessment	Under California law, school districts must conduct an FAA when a student demonstrates a "serious behavior problem," which is defined in title 5, Cal. Code of Regs., § 3001 and 3052. An FAA is also referred to as a "Hughes Bill" assessment.
FBA	Functional Behavioral Assessment	Under federal law, school districts must conduct an FBA when the student's behavior impedes his or her own learning or that of others. (34 C.F.R. § 300.346.) FBAs may also be required in relation to some disciplinary actions.
IEE	Independent Educational Evaluation	A private evaluation typically obtained by parents when they do not agree with the results of an evaluation performed by the LEA. If parents disagree with an LEA's evaluation, the parents may seek an IEE at public expense. (Cal. Ed. Code, § 56329(b).)

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IEP	Individualized Education Program	A written statement, mandated by law, that defines a child's disability, states current levels or educational needs, and specifies annual goals, and evaluation and progress reporting schedule. (20 U.S.C. § 1414(d); 34C.F.R. § 300.22; referring to 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 to 1482, and Ed. Code, §§ 56032, 56345 & 56345.1.)
IEP Team	Individualized Education Program Team	The team is composed of an administrator or his/her designee, the student's special education and general education teacher, and the parent. Other members may include the student, those who have assessed the student, and others as appropriate. The IEP Team is responsible for developing, reviewing, or revising an IEP for a child with a disability. (20 USC § 1414(d)(1)(B); 34 CFR §300.23; and Ed. Code, § 56341.)
IFSP	Individualized Family Service Plan	Similar to an IEP, but an IFSP is for eligible children from birth to age three. IFSP is a document that outlines the services to be delivered to families of infants and toddlers receiving early intervention services pursuant to Part C of the IDEA. (20 U.S.C. § 1436; 34 C.F.R. § 300.24, incorporating by reference 20 U.S.C. § 1436.)
LD	Learning Disability	An eligibility category under IDEA and California Education Code. Technically known as "specific learning disability," as listed below. Includes dyslexia. (45 C.F.R. § 1308.14.)
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment	A learning environment for a student with exceptional needs that meets his/her learning needs while providing maximum interaction with the general school population in a manner appropriate to the needs of the student and his/her peers. IDEA requires that, to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities shall be educated with children who are not disabled. (20 U.S.C. § 1412(a)(5)(A); 34 C.F.R. § 300.114 (2006); Ed Code, §§ 56031, 56342, subd. (b), & 56364, subd. (a).)
LEP	Limited English Proficiency	Also known as English language learner (ELL). Students whose primary language is other than English, who lack competence in the English language, and for whom linguistically appropriate goals, are developed. (20 U.S.C. § 1401(18); 34 C.F.R. § 300.27.)
LEA	Local Education Agency	A public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a state for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a state, or for such combination of school districts or counties as are recognized in a state as an administrative agency for its public elementary or secondary schools. (E.g., a school district.) (20 U.S.C. §1401(19)(A), (19)(B), (19)(C); 34 C.F.R. § 300.28(a), (b), (c); Cal. Ed. Code § 56026.3.)

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NCLB	No Child Left Behind	A federal school reform law that seeks to improve the quality of public schools around the United States.
NPA	Nonpublic Agency	Private agency providing related services. Means a private, nonsectarian establishment or individual that provides related services necessary for an individual with exceptional needs to benefit educationally from the pupil's educational program pursuant to an IEP. NPAs are certified by CDE. (Ed. Code, § 56035.)
NPS	Nonpublic Schools	A private, nonsectarian school that enrolls individuals with exceptional needs pursuant to an IEP. NPS's are certified by CDE. (Ed. Code, § 56034)
OT	Occupational Therapy	A special education related service which addresses areas including fine motor skills, gross motor skills, self help skills, and activities of daily living, sensory integration and sensory processing. (34 C.F.R. § 300.34.)
OAH	Office of Administrative Hearings	OAH is an independent state agency designated by CDE to provide mediation and hearing services in special education cases. OAH conducts hearings and provides a neutral forum for fair and independent resolution of matters.
OCR	US Office of Civil Rights	An agency of the federal government's executive branch within the Department of Education. It is charged with enforcing a number of civil rights statutes including Section 504.
OSEP	US Office of Special Education Programs	A federal office charged with assuring that the various states comply with IDEA.
OHI	Other Health Impaired	This is a category of eligibility for special education services. It means having limited strength, vitality or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment, that : (1) is due to chronic or acute health problems such as asthma, ADD or ADHD, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, sickle cell anemia, and Tourette syndrome; and (2) adversely affects a child's educational performance. (20 U.S.C. § 1401(3) & (30); 34 C.F.R. § 300.8I(9).)
OH	Orthopedically Handicapped	A severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance, including impairments caused by congenital anomaly (for example, clubfoot, absence of some member, and the like), disease (for example, poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis, and the like), and other causes (for example, cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures). (20 U.S.C. § 1401(3) & (30); 34 C.F.R. §300.8I(8).) This is a category of eligibility for special education services.

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PT	Physical Therapy	Means services provided by a qualified physical therapist. (34 C.F.R. §300.34I(9).) PT consists of treatment of physical disabilities given by a trained physical therapist that includes the use of massage, exercise, etc., to help the person improve the use of bones, muscles, joints and nerves Physical therapy may be a related service, or DIS, under Ed. Code, §56363.
PECS	Picture Exchange Communication System	Program wherein children with limited communication ability use pictures of items to communicate their wants and needs. Teachers may also set up a picture schedule so the child will understand what his/her daily schedule is.
PWN	Prior written notice	When a school district proposes to initiate or change, or <i>refuses</i> to initiate or change, the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a child, or the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to the child, the school district must first provide notice to the student's parents in writing, commonly referred to as "prior written notice." (20U.S.C. § 1415(b)(3)(A); 34 C.F.R. § 300.503(a)(1)(2006); Ed. Code, § 56500.4, subd. (a).)
RC	Regional Centers	Community agencies throughout California which are mandated to provide services to individuals with qualifying disabilities. Regional Centers provide early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities pursuant to part C of the IDEA, but do not provide special education services under Part B of the IDEA, the part of the IDEA which our due process hearings cover. Regional Centers cannot be parties in special education hearings; a separate hearing process exists.
RSP	Resource Specialist Program	Provides students with special education instruction for less than 50 percent of their day. A placement/service wherein a child receives individual or small-group instruction from a "resource specialist," who is credentialed special education teacher.
SLD	Specific Learning Disabilities	A disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written that may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations. (20 U.S.C. § 1401(30); 34CFR § 300.81(10); Ed. Code, §§ 56337 & 56338.) SLD is an eligibility category for special education.
SELPA	Special Education Local Plan Area	A service entity identified by the CDE and funded to provide special education services for the school districts that belong to the SELPA. (Ed.Code, § 56440.) SELPAs operate as described in the comprehension plan for special education, which is submitted by the agency to the California Department of Education. A SELPA is a government entity that provides special education services for the school districts that belong to the SELPA. (Ed. Code, § 56440.)

ACRONYMS	TERM	DEFINITION
SDC	Special Day Class	Special classes that serve pupils with similar and more intensive educational needs. SDCs may enroll pupils only when the nature or severity of the disability of the pupil is such that education in the regular classes with the use of supplemental aids and services cannot be achieved. (Ed. Code, § 56364.2.)
SLP	Speech and Language Pathologist	A person credentialed by the state to provide speech and language therapy services, which may be a related service, or DIS, under Ed. Code, § 56363.
SST	Student Success Team or Student Study Team	A team of educators, convened at the request of a classroom teacher, parent, or counselor which designs in-class interventions techniques to meet the needs of a particular student, prior to developing an IEP.
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury	TBI is an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects a student's educational performance. (20 U.S.C. § 1401(3)& (30); 34 C.F.R. § 300.8I(12))
VI	Visually Impaired	An impairment in vision that, even with correction. Adversely affects a student's educational performance. (20 U.S.C. § 1401(3) & (30); 34C.F.R. § 300.8(c)(13).)