

Special Education Acronyms

The disability community is full of acronyms that people constantly use in writing and in conversation, and it is important to know what those acronyms stand for. Acronyms are used to abbreviate names or phrases.

A - Acronyms

- AAC** | Alternative Augmentative Communication
- ABA** | Applied Behavioral Analysis
- ABC** | Antecedent, Behavior, Consequence
- ABI** | Acquired Brain Injury
- ADA** | Americans with Disabilities Act
- ADD/ADHD** | Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- ADLs** | Activities of Daily Living
- ADR** | Alternative Dispute Resolution
- ADS** | Department of Aging and Disability Services
- ADOS** | Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule
- AEM** | Accessible Educational Materials
- AO** | Age Out
- APE** | Adaptive Physical Education
- ASD** | Autism Spectrum Disorder (also American School for the Deaf)
- ASL** | American Sign Language
- AT** | Assistive Technology
- AYP** | Adequate Yearly Progress

B - Acronyms

- B23** | Birth-to-Three
- BCBA** | Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- BESB** | Bureau of Education & Services for the Blind
- BIP** | Behavioral Intervention Plan
- BOE** | Board of Education
- BRS** | Bureau of Rehabilitations Services

C - Acronyms

- CAPD** | Central Auditory Processing Disorder
- CBA** | Curriculum Based Assessment
- CC** | Closed Captioning
- CCSS** | Common Core State Standards
- CDC** | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- CDI** | Child Development Infoline and Child Development Institute

CEC | Council for Exceptional Children
CHIP | Children's Health Insurance Program
COP | Community of Practice
CPAC | Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center
CPIR | Center for Parent Information and Resources
CPRC | Community Parent Resource Center
CYSHCN | Children Youth with Special Health Care Needs
CSDE | Connecticut State Department of Education
CST | Child Study Team

D - Acronyms

DB | Deaf-Blind
DCF | Department of Children and Families
DD | Developmental Delay
DDS | Department of Developmental Services
DIBELS | Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
DSACT | Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut
DSM | Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders by the American Psychiatric Association
DSO | Day Support Options
DSS | Department of Social Services

E - Acronyms

EBP | Evidence-based Practice
ECE | Early Childhood Education
ECSE | Early Childhood Special Education
ED | Emotional Disability – in CT (Emotional Disturbance in IDEA)
ED | U.S. Department of Education
EHDI | Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program
EI | Early Intervention
EIS | Early Intervening Services
ELL | English Language Learner
ESD | Extended School Day
ESL | English as a Second Language
ESSA | Every Student Succeeds Act
ESY | Extended School Year

F - Acronyms

FAPE | Free Appropriate Public Education
FBA | Functional Behavioral Assessment
FC | Facilitated Communication
FERPA | Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
FOIA | Freedom of Information Act

G and H - Acronyms

GE | General Education

GT | Gifted and Talented

HI | Hearing Impaired

HO | Hearing Officer

HoH | Hard of Hearing

I - Acronyms

IA | Instructional Assistant

IAES | Interim Alternative Educational Setting

ID | Intellectual Disability

IDEA | Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

IEE | Independent Educational Evaluation

IEP | Individualized Education Program

IFSP | Individualized Family Service Plan

IHE | Institution of Higher Education

L, M, and N - Acronyms

LD | Learning Disability

LEA | Local Education Agency

LEP | Limited English Proficiency

LRE | Least Restrictive Environment

MD | Multiple Disabilities

MDR | Manifestation Determination Review

MTSS | Multi-Tiered System of Supports

NIH | National Institutes of Health

NIMH | National Institute of Mental Health

O - Acronyms

OCR | Office for Civil Rights

OHI | Other Health Impairment

OI | Orthopedic Impairment

O & M | Orientation and Mobility Services

OSEP | Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education

OT | Occupational Therapy

P and R - Acronyms

P&A | Protection & Advocacy

PALS | Peer-Assisted Learning System

PARCC | Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

PASS | Plan for Achieving Self-Support

PBIS | Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

PCA | Personal Care Attendant

PD | Physical Disability

PLAAF | Present Level(s) of Academic Achievement and Functioning

PLOP | Present Level(s) of Performance

PPT | Planning and Placement Team

PS | Preschool

PT | Physical Therapy

PSOGS | Post-Secondary Outcome Goal Statement

PTI | Parent Training and Information Center

RESC | Regional Educational Service Center

RDA | Results-Driven Accountability

RSA | Rehabilitation Services Administration

RS | Related Services

RTI | Response to Intervention

S - Acronyms

§ | This symbol means “Section” as in “§ 300.7 Child with a disability” in the IDEA regulations

SAS | Supplementary Aids and Services

SEA | State Education Agency

SEAC | Special Education Advisory Committee

Section 504 | Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

SEPAC | Special Education Parent Advisory Council

SI | Sensory Integration

SLD | Specific Learning Disability

SLI | Speech/Language Impairment

SLP | Speech/Language Pathologist

SRBI | Scientific Research-Based Intervention

SSDI | Social Security Disability Income

SSI | Supplemental Security Income

SSP | Student Support Plan

SST | Student Study Team

U to Z - Acronyms

UDL | Universal Design for Learning

TBI | Traumatic Brain Injury

TDD | Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf

T-TA | Training and Technical Assistance

TTY | Teletypewriter (phone system for the deaf)

TWWIIA | Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act

VI | Visual Impairment

Voc Ed | Vocational Education

VR | Vocational Rehabilitation

WIOA | Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act