

Navigating the World of Special Education

Glossary of Terms for Families



The Arc of Cumberland
& Perry Counties

AAC- Augmentative/Alternative Communication

An alternative way to help people with language disorders find healthy and appropriate ways to communicate their basic needs

ABA- Applied Behavioral Analysis

A type of therapy that can improve social, communication, and learning skills through positive reinforcement

Accommodations

Alterations in the way tasks are presented that allow children with learning disabilities to complete the same assignments as other students, accommodations do not alter the content of assignments, give students an unfair advantage or in the case of assessments, change what a test measures

ADA- Americans with Disabilities Act

Legislation that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

Adaptive Skills

Functional skills -daily living skills such as eating, dressing, and toileting

Adaptive Specials

Specials (such as music, art, and gym) that has been adapted or modified, so that it is as appropriate for the person with a disability as it is for a person without a disability

ADHD- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder**ADL-Activities of Daily Living**

These activities are the basic tasks of everyday life, and they include tasks such as eating, bathing, clothing, and toileting

Advocacy

This is any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of another.

Age of Majority

Federal special education law, has a section about educational decision-making when the child reaches the age of majority under state law – in PA this age is 21

Amount of Special Education Support:

- Itinerant: special education supports and services provided by special education personnel for 20% or less of the school day
- Supplemental: special education supports and services provided by special education personnel for more than 20% of the day but less than 80% of the school day
- Full-Time: special education supports and services provided by special education personnel for 80% or more of the school day

Assessment

Process that helps find your child's strengths and needs

ASD- Autism Spectrum Disorder

Developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction

ASL-American Sign Language

AT-Assistive Technology

Products, equipment, and systems that enhance learning, working, and daily living for persons with disabilities

Assistive Technology Device

Any item or piece of equipment that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a child with a disability

Bb

BCBA-Board Certified Behavior Analyst

Board certified individual who is trained to provide and supervise behavior analysis

BC- Behavior Consultation Services (formerly BSC Services)

Services can be used to address behaviors in the school, home, or any other place where a child or youth needs behavior supports and to learn strategies to better succeed

BEC-Basic Education Circular

Interpretation of state and federal statutes and regulations issued by the Bureau of Special Education

Benchmarks

Short-term objectives leading to attaining an annual goal

BSC-Behavioral Support Consultation (new term is BC)

Provides education and support to staff working with students or adults with behavioral challenges, developmental disabilities or emotional dysfunction

BSE-Bureau of Special Education

Part of the Pennsylvania Department of Education; responsible for ensuring that local school districts adhere to all special education regulations and standards as well as working to improve the status of special education services

BHT- Behavioral Health Technician

BHT services replace TSS services, works under a BCBA

Cc

CASSP-Child and Adolescent Service System Program

A comprehensive system of care for children and adolescents with or at risk of developing serious emotional disturbance with and/or substance use disorders and their families

Chapter 14

Main body of PA Special Education regulation

Chapter 15

State law that covers children who do not need special education services but need special services as "protected handicapped children" in conjunction with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to provide stimulation and education

Cognitive

Cognitive abilities include the capacity to learn, understand, and to solve problems

Complaint Management System

Bureau of Special Education maintains an office for parents to file complaints when involved with a special education dispute

Compulsory Age

The compulsory school age in Pennsylvania require all students to attend school no later than age 6 and until age 18 or graduation, whichever occurs sooner

ConsultLine: 1-800-879-2301

Assist parents and advocates of children with disabilities or children thought to be disabled, helps through any questions concerning your child's special education program or the laws relating to the provision of services in your child's IEP

Curriculum

Content of an educational program

Dd

Deaf-Blindness

Combined hearing and visual impairments, causes severe communication and developmental and educational needs

Deafness

Refers to the total or partial inability to hear sounds

Developmental Delay

Refers to a child who has not gained the developmental skills expected of him/her compared to others of the same age, delay areas could be cognitive, adaptive, physical, social skills, etc... This term is limited to early intervention programs

DIBELS

Dynamic indicators of basic early literacy skills, measures that help schools determine how students are performing on important reading skills

Disability

Any condition of the body or mind that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities and interact with the world around them

DSM

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders is the handbook used by health care professionals in the United States and much of the world as the authoritative guide to the diagnosis of mental disorders, it contains descriptions, symptoms, and other criteria for diagnosing mental disorders

Due Process

Procedures that parents may use to disagree with school officials' decisions, gives parents the right to refuse, change, or permit recommended educational services

Ee

Early Intervention-EI

Collection of services and/or supports for eligible children from birth to age 5 with developmental delays and disabilities

Early Intervention Technical Assistance-EITA

Provides training and technical assistance to local Infant/Toddler and Preschool Early Intervention agencies providing support and services to children birth to school age with developmental disabilities and their families

ED- Emotional Disturbance

A condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects a child's educational performance: a. inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors b. inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers c. inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances d. general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression e. tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems

Executive Functioning

A set of mental skills that include working memory, flexible thinking, and self-control. We use these skills every day to learn, work, and manage daily life. Trouble with executive function can make it hard to focus, follow directions, and handle emotions, among other things

Eligibility

This is determined by the evaluation team that the student meets the definition of disability and will benefit from special education services.

Emotional Support-ES

Services provided to children with Mental Health diagnoses

ER-Evaluation Report

A school evaluation includes both testing and observation; the results help the IEP team decide whether a student needs special education services

ESL-English as Second Language

Services, provided to children who are not native English speakers

Explanation of the Extent

Statement that explains how much the student will participate with students without disabilities in the regular education class and how often he will be in special education and what services are being provided, statement will also express if the student will participate in the general education curriculum

Expulsion

Student being removed from their current placement; there must be a hearing before the school district board of directors

Extended School Year-ESY

Programs or services are provided during summer break, these services are to prevent regression during breaks from the regular school year

FAPE-Free Appropriate Public Education

Law provides for appropriate educational services at no expense to the family

FBA-Functional Behavior Assessment

Used when student's behavior interferes significantly with their or their peers learning

FERPA-Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Gives parents and eligible students (age 18+) the right to inspect and review student educational records

Gg

Goal

IEP goals are the specific details in your child's plan that describe what they should accomplish during the school year

Hh

Hearing Impairment

Impairment of hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, adversely affects child's educational performance but not included under the definition of deafness

Ii

IAES-Interim Alternative Educational Setting

Temporary change in student's placement, occurs after a serious discipline issue, law allows for a placement change up to 45 days without parental consent

IDD- Intellectual Development Disorder

A neuro-developmental disorder characterized by deficits in general intellectual functioning such as reasoning, planning, judgment, abstract thinking, academic learning and experiential learning. These may also lead to impairments in practical, social and academic functioning.

IDEA- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Federal legislation that mandates that states provide free appropriate education to all students in the least restrictive environment until graduation

IEE- Independent Educational Evaluation

Conducted by an outside professional who isn't employed by the school.

IEP- Individualized Educational Plans

Parents and school team develop a plan for eligible students, IEP states specific programs and services the child will receive, also contains goals and objectives. For gifted student the forms referred to as a "GIEP"

IFSP- Individualized Family Service Plan

Parents and staff develop these plans for eligible children birth to 3rd birthday

Inclusion

Student is given opportunities to participate in all of the activities available in a typical school and surrounding community

IQ

Intelligence quotient, total score derived from a set of standardized tests or subtests designed to assess human intelligence

IU- Intermediate Unit

Public entities that serve a given geographic area's educational needs, functions as a step of organization above that of a public school district, but below that of PDE

L **Language and Speech Development**

Includes the ability to talk, express one's needs, and/or communicate

LEA- Local Education Agency

The school district in which your child resides, LEA is required to be at the IEP meeting, has the authority to commit resources of time and money in the name of the school

Local Assessment

A uniform tool developed and administered in a given time frame by all teachers in a grade level or course, includes various types of questions to measure students' understanding of essential knowledge

LRE- Least Restrictive Environment

Refers to the setting where a child with a disability can receive an appropriate education designed to meet his/her educational needs, alongside peers without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate

Mm

MA- Medical Assistance

Pays for health care services for eligible individuals

Manifestation Determination

A procedural safeguard required by IDEA, whenever a student with a disability is being considered for exclusion from school that constitutes a change of placement, IEP team then determines if the behavior leading to the disciplinary action is not a manifestation of the student's disability

MDT-Multidisciplinary Team

This team is comprised of the child's parents and professionals, responsible for evaluating child thought to be eligible for special education services

Mediation

A process in which a mediator helps to resolve a dispute between a parent and school district personnel over a child's special education program

Meeting

A prearranged event in which public agency personnel come together at the same time and plan to discuss, identify, evaluate educational placement and FAPE

MH/IDD- Mental Health- Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities

Offers services to people of all ages with serious mental illness or intellectual and developmental disabilities

Modifications

Changes to what your child is expected to do in school, are not the same as accommodations

Multiple Disabilities

Combined impairments which causes severe educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for one of the impairments

NOREP- Notice of Recommended Educational Placement

This document will summarize the recommendations for your child's placement, program, and services. Parent must sign this in order for changes to be made

Objectives

Short-term series of steps indicating smaller, specific tasks on the way to accomplishing an IEP goal

OCDEL- Office of Child Development and Early Learning

This office supports families and their children from prenatal through school age, by using data, research and stakeholder guidance to assure high quality services

ODD- Oppositional Defiant Disorder**ODR- Office of Dispute Resolution**

Provides resources for parents and educational agencies to resolve educational disputes for children served by the early intervention, gifted, and students with disabilities

OHI- Other Health Impairment

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 a. is due to chronic or acute health problems such as asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, sickle cell anemia, and Tourette syndrome; and b. adversely affects a child's educational performance

Orthopedic Impairments

Severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance, IDEA specifies that this term "includes impairments caused by birth defects, impairments caused by disease, and impairments from other causes (e.g., cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures); physical disabilities which affect the academic process

OSEP- Office of Special Education Program

This is part of the U.S. Department of Education; OSEP provides leadership and support for professionals working with children with disabilities

OT- Occupational Therapy

Therapy that helps students who have physical, sensory, or cognitive problems

OVR- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Part of the Department of Labor and Industry responsible for developing and overseeing policies and programs related to transition from school to work for those with special needs

Paraprofessional

Individuals who work under the direction of professional personnel

Parental Consent

Consent means that the parent has been fully informed of all information relevant to the activity for which consent is sought in their native language, or other mode of communication and the parent understands and agrees in writing. Granting consent is voluntary on the parent's part and may be revoked at any time but is not retroactive

PASA- Pennsylvania Alternative System of Assessment

Alternative statewide assessment for students receiving special education who have been determined ineligible to take PSSA; PASA is geared to functional levels

PaTTAN: Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network

Provides full array of professional development and technical assistance targeted to improving student results

PBIS: Positive Behavior Support Plan

Provides full array of professional development and technical assistance targeted to improving student results behavior management system used to understand what maintains an individual's challenging behavior

PDE: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Executive department of the state charged with publicly funded preschool, K-12 and adult educational budgeting, management and guidelines, its activities are directed by the governor appointed Pennsylvania's Secretary of Education

Placement

Once the IEP team has decided what services a child needs, a decision must be made about where services will be provided, where the child's IEP is carried out is called placement

Present Levels

The "present levels" statement is crafted by considering the areas of development in which a child with a disability may need support. These are roughly divided into the two areas of development: academic and functional

Prior Written Notice

A notice of action that a child's school district is responsible to give to the guardians of that child before they attempt to make a change to their IEP

Procedural Safeguards

Describes the rights of a parent of a child with a disability and the procedures that safeguard those rights under state and federal special education law

Progress Monitoring

Student's progression of achievement is monitored and instructional techniques are adjusted to meet the individual students learning needs

PSSA- Pennsylvania System of School Assessment

Statewide assessment test given to all students in grades 5, 8 and 11

PT- Physical Therapy

Physical therapy is care that aims to ease pain and help you function, move, and live better

Rr

RBT- Registered Behavior Technician

They are a type of paraprofessional who works under the supervision of a certified behavior analyst (BCBA) or as part of a clinical team

Related Services

They are transportation and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services that are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education; includes speech-language pathology, audiology services, interpreting services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, counseling services, orientation and mobility services, and medical services. Related services also include school health services and school nurse services, transportation, social work services in schools, and parent counseling and training.

Revision

Agreement between LEA and parents to change the IEP, may occur with or without a meeting based on mutual agreement

RR- Re-evaluation Report

An evaluation that happens after your child's initial evaluation

Ss

Screening

Process undertaken to determine if a more extensive assessment needs to be completed

SAP- Student Assistance Program

An on-site counselor who identifies and assists students experiencing personal stressors that can impede their school performance, and negatively impact their social and emotional well-being

SDI- Specially Designed Instructions

Instruction provided to a student with a disability who has an IEP in order to help them master IEP goals/objectives

SEA- State Educational Agency

A state board of education or other agency or officer primarily responsible for the State supervision of public elementary schools and secondary schools

Sensory Integration

A term that has been used to describe processes in the brain that allow us to take information we receive from our senses, organize it, and respond appropriately

SLD- Specific Learning Disability

Refers to a disorder in one or more of the basic processes involved in understanding or using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell or perform mathematical calculations

SLP- Speech/Language Pathologist

Work to prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders

Social and Emotional Development

Ability to interact with others is assessed when determining appropriate social and emotional development

Special Consideration

Lists five special factors that the IEP team must consider in the development, review, and revision of each child's IEP; special factors = assistive technology, communication needs, deafness, blindness or visual impairment, limited English proficiency, and behavior

Special Education

Specially designed instruction that addresses the unique needs of a student eligible to receive special education services

Speech or Language Impairment

Communication disorder such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment, or a voice impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance

SSDI- Social Security Disability Insurance

A payroll tax-funded federal insurance program of the United States government. It is managed by the Social Security Administration and designed to provide income supplements to people who are physically restricted in their ability to be employed because of a notable disability

SSI- Supplemental Security Income

A Federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues, it is designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people who have little or no income. It provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing and shelter.

Suspension

Refers to the temporary removal of a student from his or her regular educational setting for a violation of school policies or rules

Tt

TBI- Traumatic Brain Injury

Traumatic brain injury applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas, such as cognition; language; memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgment; problem-solving; sensory, perceptual, and motor abilities; psycho-social behavior; physical functions; information processing; and speech. The term does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative, or to brain injuries induced by birth trauma

Transition

Refers to the movement from one program to another. The "official" term, however, usually refers to the transition from school-based to adult services

Transition Services

A coordinated set of activities that promote movement from school to such post-school activities as post-secondary education, vocational training, employment, adult services, independent living and community participation

TSS- Therapeutic Staff Support (new term is BHT)

Working one on one with a young client in accordance with their behavior treatment plan

Vv

Visual Impairment Including Blindness

Impairment in vision that even with correction adversely affects a child's educational performance, includes partial and blindness

Ww

Wraparound Services

A community based service that works with children and youth with serious mental health challenges and their families in their home, school, and community in an effort to help meet their needs



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