

Key Terms and Acronyms in Special Education Law

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| FAPE | <p>Free Appropriate Public Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An educational right of children with disabilities in the United States that is guaranteed by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). |
| IDEA | <p>The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides educational protections for students who meet criteria necessary for classification in one of the thirteen categories specified under the act. |
| IEP | <p>Individualized Education Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A written statement detailing the unique educational needs and services provided to a student with a qualifying disability under IDEA. |
| Section 504 | <p>Anti-discrimination act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protects students from discrimination based on their disability. Encompasses a broader range of disabilities than IDEA. |

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| 504 Plan | <p>Document generated from Anti-discrimination act provisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents strategies and resources afforded to a student with a disability affecting a major life activity in order to prevent discrimination in school. |
| CSE | <p>Committee on Special Education (age 5-12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multidisciplinary team, that includes parents and students, responsible for students with disabilities from ages 5-21. The CSE is authorized to identify students in need of services by determining eligibility and develop an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to meet each student's individual needs. |
| CPSE | <p>Committee on Preschool Special Education (age 3-5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to CSE, for students ages 3-5. |
| LRE | <p>Least Restrictive Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the IDEA students must be educated in a classroom setting as close to a general education setting as possible where they can still make academic gains. |
| MDR | <p>Manifestation Determination Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting to determine whether or not a student's misconduct is a result of their disability or school's failure to implement their IEP when that student is facing a suspension that will exceed 5 days or has been removed from the classroom setting for 10 days (or the equivalent of 10 days). |

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| BIP | <p>Behavior Intervention Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written plan that targets a student's undesirable behavior(s) with interventions that are clearly measurable, including prevention strategies and replacement behaviors. |
| FBA | <p>Functional Behavior Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A process which examines a student's disruptive behaviors, looks for the reasons behind the behaviors and offers interventions that teach new behaviors to replace the undesired ones. |
| AT | <p>Assistive Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any device, equipment or software that helps a student with a disability increase, maintain or improve their functional capabilities (excludes medical devices). |
| EI | <p>Early Intervention (age 0-3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A system of services that helps babies and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities from birth to their third birthdays. |
| IFSP | <p>Individualized Family Service Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written treatment plan that maps out the early intervention services a child (age birth to his/her third birthday) will receive, as well as how and when these services will be administered. It details a child's current levels of functioning, specific needs and goals for treatment (referred to as outcomes). |

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| RCT | <p>Regents Competency Test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exit exams given to identified special education students with Individualized Education Programs or a 504 plan seeking a high school diploma who cannot pass the standard Regents exams. |
| 15:1:1 | A type of classroom structure common on an IEP or 504 plan consisting of 15 students, 1 teacher, and 1 aid. |
| 12:1:1 | A type of classroom structure common on an IEP or 504 plan consisting of 12 students, 1 teacher, and 1 aid. |
| 6:1:1 | A type of classroom structure common on an IEP or 504 plan consisting of 6 students, 1 teacher, and 1 aid. |

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