

## Table of Contents

# Key Terms and Acronyms in Special Education Law

### Free Appropriate Public Education

- FAPE
- 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).

### The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

- IDEA
- Provides educational protections for students who meet criteria necessary for classification in one of the thirteen categories specified under the act.

### Individualized Education Program

- IEP
- A written statement detailing the unique educational needs and services provided to a student with a qualifying disability under IDEA.

### Anti-discrimination act

Section  
504

- Protects students from discrimination based on their disability. Encompasses a broader range of disabilities than IDEA.

## Document generated from Anti-discrimination act provisions

504  
Plan

- Documents strategies and resources afforded to a student with a disability affecting a major life activity in order to prevent discrimination in school.

## Committee on Special Education (age 5-12)

CSE

- 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.

## Committee on Preschool Special Education (age 3-5)

CPSE

- Similar to CSE, for students ages 3-5.

## Least Restrictive Environment

LRE

- 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.

## Manifestation Determination Review

MDR

- 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).

## Behavior Intervention Plan

- BIP
- A written plan that targets a student's undesirable behavior(s) with interventions that are clearly measurable, including prevention strategies and replacement behaviors.

## Functional Behavior Assessment

- FBA
- 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.

## Assistive Technology

- AT
- Any device, equipment or software that helps a student with a disability increase, maintain or improve their functional capabilities (excludes medical devices).

## Early Intervention (age 0-3)

- EI
- A system of services that helps babies and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities from birth to their third birthdays.

## Individualized Family Service Plan

- IFSP
- 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).

## Regents Competency Test

- RCT
- 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

(c) Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. ®

This article provides general information about this subject. Laws affecting this subject may have changed since this article was written. For specific legal advice about a problem you are having, get the advice of a lawyer. Receiving this information does not make you a client of our office.

Last Review Date: June 2016

Last updated on September 17, 2025.

[Education](#)

Print

Print

Table of Contents

NEWS

News & publications

[More News](#)

December 19, 2025

## Limited Availability in the Upcoming Weeks

Please note that many of our offices and projects will have differing and...

[Read More about Limited Availability in the Upcoming Weeks](#)

October 31, 2025

## SNAP Benefit Update as of October 31, 2025

SNAP benefits for November 2025 may be delayed. The New York State Office of...

[Read More about SNAP Benefit Update as of October 31, 2025](#)

## Our Partners

We proudly receive support from the following (to read a full list of our supporters, visit the "Who We Are" tab above):

