

ABCs of SPECIAL EDUCATION

This tip sheet is created to assist educational professionals, students, and parents in understanding acronyms specific to special education to facilitate a collaborative and student-focused special education process.



504	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973	CDE	California Department of Education
AAC	Alternative Augmentative Communication	CDS	Community Day School
ABA	Applied Behavior Analysis	CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	DHH	Deaf and Hard of Hearing
ADA	Average Daily Attendance	DOJ	Department of Justice
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	DSM-5	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th Edition)
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution	ED	Emotional Disturbance
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge	EHA	Education for All Handicapped Children Act (predecessor to IDEA)
APE	Adaptive Physical Education	EL	English Learner
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder	ESL	English as a Second Language
ASL	American Sign Language	ESY	Extended School Year
AT	Assistive Technology	FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education
BCBA	Board Certified Behavior Analyst	FBA	Functional Behavioral Assessment
BIP	Behavioral Intervention Plan	FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
CAASPP	California Assessment of Student Performance & Progress	HHI	Home/Hospital Instruction
CAC	Community Advisory Committee	IA	Instructional Aide
CART	Communication Access Realtime Translation	IAES	Interim Alternative Educational Setting
CCR	California Code of Regulations	ID	Intellectual Disability
CCS	California Children's Services	IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act



IEE	Independent Educational Evaluation	OI	Orthopedic Impairment
IEP	Individualized Education Program	OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs
IFSP	Individualized Family Services Plan	OSERS	Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services
IS	Independent Study	OT	Occupational Therapy
ISA	Individual Services Agreement	PDD	Pervasive Developmental Disorder
ISP	Individualized Service Plan	PWN	Prior Written Notice
ITP	Individualized Transition Plan	RSP	Resource Specialist Program
IWEN	Individual with Exceptional Needs	RTI	Response to Intervention
LCI	Licensed Children's Institution	SAI	Specialized Academic Instruction
LEA	Local Education Agency	SBE	State Board of Education
LEP	Limited English Proficient	SEA	State Education Agency
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment	SELPA	Special Education Local Plan Area
MD	Manifestation Determination	SLD	Specific Learning Disability
NPA	Nonpublic Agency	SLI	Speech or Language Impairment
NPS	Nonpublic School	SST	Student Study Team
O & M	Orientation and Mobility	SWD	Students with Disabilities
OA	Office of Administrative Hearings	TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
OCD	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	USC	United States Code
OCR	Office for Civil Rights	USDOE	United States Department of Education
ODD	Oppositional Defiant Disorder	VI	Visual Impairment
OHI	Other Health Impairment		