

*A jargon buster
to make special
education more
understandable.*

Special Education Acronyms

Vermont Family Network is happy to provide you with this partial list of special education and disability related acronyms, many of which are commonly used both in conversation and writing.

AAC/ Alternative Augmentative Communication
ABA/ Applied Behavioral Analysis
ABC/ Antecedent, Behavior, Consequence
ADA/ Americans with Disabilities Act
ADD/ADHD/ Attention Deficit/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
ADL/ Activities of Daily Living
AOE/ Agency of Education
APE/ Adaptive Physical Education
APR/ Annual Performance Report
ASD/ Autism Spectrum Disorders
ASL/ American Sign Language
AT/ Assistive Technology
AYP/ Adequate Yearly Progress

BCBA/ Board Certified Behavior Analyst
BD / Behavioral Disorder
BIP/ Behavioral Intervention Plan

CAP/ Corrective Action Plan
CAPD/ Central Auditory Processing Disorder
CBA/ Curriculum Based Assessment
CC/ Closed Captioning
CIS-EI/ Children's Integrated Services-Early Intervention Program
CF/ Child Find
CF/Cystic Fibrosis
CFR/ Code of Federal Regulations
CP/ Cerebral Palsy

CSHN/ Children with Special Health Needs

CSP/ Coordinated Service Plan

CPI/ Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (Crisis Prevention Institute)

DB/ Deaf-Blindness

DD/ Developmental Delay

DP/ Due Process

DS/ Down Syndrome

DSM/ Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders by the American Psychiatric Association

ED/ Emotional Disturbance

EBD/ Emotional-Behavioral Disorder

ED/ U.S. Department of Education

EI/ Early Intervention

ELL/ English Language Learner

EPSDT/ Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment

ESL/ English as a Second Language

ESY/ Extended School Year Services

ESD/ Extended School Day Services

ESSA/ Every Student Succeeds Act

EST/ Educational Support Team

EPT/ Evaluation Planning Team

FAPE/ Free Appropriate Public Education

FAS/ Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

FBA/ Functional Behavioral Assessment



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Published
April 2016

FC/ Facilitated Communication
FERPA/ Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
FOIA/ Freedom of Information Act
FEL/ Foundations of Early Learning Program
FSI/ Facilitated Social Interaction

GE/ General Education
GT/ Gifted and Talented

HI/ Hearing Impaired
HO/ Hearing Officer
HIPAA/ Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act
HFA/ High Functioning Autism

IA/ Instructional Assistant
IAES/ Interim Alternative Educational Setting
ID/ Intellectual Disabilities
IDEA/ Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEE/ Independent Educational Evaluation
IEP/ Individualized Education Program
IFSP/ Individualized Family Service Plan
ITP/ Individualized Transition Plan

LD/ Learning Disability
LEA/ Local Education Agency
LEP/ Limited English Proficiency
LRE/ Least Restrictive Environment

MD/ Muscular Dystrophy
MD or MH/ Multiple Disabilities or Multiply Handicapped
MDR/ Manifestation Determination Review
MTSS/ Multi-Tier System of Supports

NIH/ National Institutes of Health
NIMH/ National Institute of Mental Health
NVLD/ Non Verbal Learning Disorder
NAMI/ National Alliance on Mental Illness

OCD/ Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
OCR/ Office of Civil Rights
ODD/ Oppositional Defiant Disorder
OHI/ Other Health Impairment
OI/ Orthopedic Impairment

OSEP/ Office of Special Education Programs

OT/ Occupational Therapy

PBS/ Positive Behavior Supports
PBIS/ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support
PCA/ Personal Care Attendant
PD/ Physical Disability
PDD/ Pervasive Developmental Disorder
PDD-NOS/ Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified
PLP/ Personalized Learning Plans
PLOP or PLP/ Present Level of Educational Performance or Present Level of Performance
PT/ Physical Therapy
PTI/ Parent Training and Information Center
PTSD/ Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

RS/ Related Services
RTI/ Response to Intervention
RBI/ Restrictive Behavioral Intervention

SAS/ Supplementary Aids and Services
SB/ Spina Bifida
SDI/ Specially Designed Instruction
SEA/ State Education Agency
Section 504/ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
SI/ Sensory Integration
SID/ Sensory Integration Disorder
SLD/ Specific Learning Disability
SLI/ Speech/Language Impairment
SLP/ Speech/Language Pathologist
SSDI/ Social Security Disability Income
SSI/ Supplemental Security Income

TBI/ Traumatic Brain Injury
TDD/ Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf
ToM/ Theory of Mind
TS/ Tourette Syndrome

VI/ Visual Impairment
Voc Ed/ Vocational Education
VR/ Vocational Rehabilitation

WIC/ Women, Infants and Children (Special Supplemental Food Program)