



Common Terms and Definitions



Adapted Physical Education (APE) – A related service for children who exhibit delays in motor development in addition to or in place of physical education including modifications of activities so students may participate more fully in physical education class.

Assistive Technology (AT) – Any item, piece of equipment, or product, which is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of students with disabilities.

Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) – A plan including target behaviors, behavioral strategies, positive reinforcement, and consequences for student behaviors. The plan is designed to teach students to demonstrate appropriate behavior and social skills.

Extended School Year Services (ESY) – Special education and related services during the summer. The purpose of ESY is to prevent a child with a disability from losing previously learned skills. The IEP team approves ESY goals for the student to work on. Not all students receiving special education services receive ESY.

Fine Motor – Motor skills related to the small muscle groups such as handwriting, using both hands to complete tasks, and buttoning.

Gross Motor – Motor skills related to the large muscle groups such as walking, sitting, and jumping.

Individual Education Program (IEP) – An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is the educational program that has been designed to meet that child's unique needs. Each child who receives special education and related services has an IEP. The IEP is developed by teachers, parents, school administrators, related services personnel, and students (when age appropriate) It includes educational goals and objectives, modifications and accommodations, documents progress and defines the services and placement of the student.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) – The educational placement that is close as possible to the general education environment that permits a child to receive the most educational benefit while participating in a regular educational environment to the maximum extent appropriate.

Occupational Therapist (OT) – Works with students to improve fine motor skills and meaningful activities of daily life such as self-care skills, education, recreation, or work.

Physical Therapist (PT) – Works with students to improve gross motor skills (large muscle groups) and mobility.

Special Education – Specialized instruction to fit the unique learning strengths and needs of students with disabilities. A major goal of special education is to teach the skills and knowledge the child needs to be as independent as possible. Special education programs focus on academics and include therapies and related services.

Speech and Language Therapist – Provides therapy to help a student develop or improve articulation (pronunciation), communication skills, pragmatics (social skills) and oral-motor skills.



Special Education Acronyms



ADHD - Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder
ASD - Autism Spectrum Disorders
AT - Assistive Technology
APE - Adaptive Physical Education
ASL - American Sign Language
BIP - Behavior Intervention Plan
CBI - Community Based Instruction
CP - Cerebral Palsy
ED - Emotional Disability
ESL - English as a Second Language
ESY - Extended School Year
FBA- Functional Behavior Assessment
IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEP - Individual Education Program
LRE - Least Restrictive Environment
NCLB - No Child Left Behind Act
OT - Occupational Therapy
PECS - Picture Exchange Communication System
PDD - Pervasive Developmental Disorder
PT - Physical Therapy
RT I - Response to Interventions
SLP - Speech and Language Pathologist
SLD - Specific Learning Disability
VSC - Voluntary State Curriculum