

Term	Meaning
Accommodation	A change in curriculum or instruction that does not substantially modify the requirements of the class or alter the content standards or benchmarks.
Adapted Physical Education (APE)	A diversified program of developmental activities, games, sports, and rhythms suited to the interests, capabilities and needs of students with disabilities who may not successfully engage in a regular physical education program.
Administrative Law Judges (ALJs)	Judges provided by OAH to conduct Due Process Hearings in a manner similar to civil court trials. They are neutral fact-finders, fully independent of the agencies whose attorneys appear before them.
Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)	Alternative opportunities for parties to resolve disputes collaboratively and avoid litigation, typically through negotiation, mediation, or arbitration.
Assessment	Any systematic method of obtaining information from tests and other sources; used to draw inferences about characteristics of people, objects, or programs. An initial evaluation (or periodic re-evaluation) to determine whether a child is a child with a disability and to determine the educational needs of this child.
Assistive Technology (AT) Device	Any piece of equipment used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.
Assistive Technology (AT) Service	Any service that directly assists an eligible individual in selecting, acquiring, or using an assistive technology device.
Curriculum-based Assessment	A methodology in special education in which a child's progress in the curriculum is measured at frequent intervals.
Due Process	In general, a course of legal proceedings according to rules and principles established for enforcement and protection of private rights. Essential components of due process are "notice" and "a meaningful opportunity to be heard."
Due Process Hearing	The formal, legal procedure guaranteed by federal law to resolve disputes relating to the education of IDEA-eligible children with disabilities to ensure that



Definitions

	each receives a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) tailored to his/her unique needs.
Extended School Day	A provision for a special education student to receive instruction for a period longer than the standard school day.
Extended School Year (ESY)	A provision for a special education student to receive instruction during ordinary school vacation periods.
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)	A federal law that regulates the management of student records and disclosure of information from those records, with its own administrative enforcement mechanism.
Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)	Special education and related services are provided to students with disabilities at public expense and under public supervision and direction at no cost to the student's parents.
Functional Behavior Assessment (FAA)	An evaluation process to understand the purpose, motivation, and correlates of challenging behavior(s) in order to develop a positive and appropriate Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP), instructional supports and services.
Functional Curriculum (Life Skills Curriculum)	A curriculum focused on practical life skills and usually taught in community-based settings with concrete materials that are a regular part of everyday life.
Inclusion [or] Inclusive Education	A belief that every student is entitled to an instructional program that meets his or her individual needs and learning characteristics; a commitment to build and maintain an assured sense of belonging for all students, regardless of strengths or challenges.
Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE)	An independent evaluation of a student from a qualified person. Parents have the right to ask for and obtain an IEE if they disagree with the results of an assessment conducted by the school district. Any IEE must be considered at the IEP.
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	Federal law that entitles students with disabilities to special education services.



Definitions

Individualized Education Program (IEP)	The annually written record of an eligible individual's special education and related services, describing the unique educational needs of the student and the manner in which those educational needs will be met.
IEP Meeting	A gathering required at least annually under IDEA in which an IEP is developed for a student receiving special education.
IEP Team (Minimum Required Members)	Parent or legal Surrogate; Student, when necessary; one general education and one special education teacher both responsible for implementing the IEP; school district representative qualified to provide/supervise provision of specialized instruction, knowledgeable about the general curriculum and the resources of the district. (CA law requires this be someone other than the child's teacher); Person(s) who conducted assessment(s) or knowledgeable enough to explain/interpret the results; People with specific expertise or knowledge of the student. (Optional: Attorneys or advocates)
Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)	A written plan for providing early intervention services to an eligible child with a disability (from birth to 3rd birthday) and to the child's family.
Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)	A federal mandate stipulating that, to the maximum extent possible, students with disabilities be educated with their non-disabled peers.
Local Education Area (LEA)	A school district.
Mediation (Mediation-Only)	A voluntary alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process that may be requested PRIOR to filing a Due Process Complaint. It is not a prerequisite to filing.
Mediation (Formal Due Process)	A voluntary alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process that may occur AFTER a Due Process Complaint is filed. Office of Administrative Hearing (OAH) provides mediators.
Modification	A change in curriculum or instruction that substantially alters the requirements of the class or its content standards or benchmarks.
Office for Civil Rights (OCR)	An agency of the federal government's executive branch within the Department of Education that is charged with enforcing a number of civil rights statutes.
Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO)	An office within the CA Dept. of Education to advise the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, CDE staff, and the State Board of Education on legal matters



Definitions

	to ensure equal, fair, and meaningful access to its employment and program services.
Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)	An office within OSERS (<i>see below</i>) charged with assuring that the various states comply with IDEA.
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)	An agency of the federal government's executive branch within the Department of Education (DOE).
Placement	The unique combination of facilities, personnel, location or equipment necessary to provide instructional services to meet the goals as specified in the student's IEP or Section 504 plan.
Prior Written Notice (PWN)	A notice supplied to the other party that includes a description of the action proposed or refused by the school district or by the parent.
Procedural Safeguards	Educational rights of students with disabilities, from ages 3 up to 22nd birthday. Compliance
Related Services	Services required to assist an individual with disabilities to benefit from special education, including but not limited to: transportation, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, mental health services, and medical care.
Resolution Meeting	A meeting mandated in IDEA 2004 as part of the Due Process Complaint process where parties attempt to resolve a dispute prior to proceeding to a Due Process Hearing.
Stay Put	The ruling that permits a student to remain in their current placement during any dispute concerning special education services.