

Acronym	Full Name	Short Definition
AIM/AEM	Accessible Instructional Materials/Accessible Educational Materials	Materials that provide the same educational information found in textbooks, pamphlets, etc. in a different format. Examples might be large print, audio, and digital text.
	Accommodation	A change in curriculum or instruction that does not substantially modify the requirements of the class or alter the content standards or benchmarks. Things in place to level the playing field for a student with a disability.
APE	Adapted Physical Education	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.
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge	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.
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution	Alternative opportunities for parties to resolve disputes collaboratively and avoid litigation, typically through negotiation, mediation, or arbitration.
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	
AEA	Area Education Agency	Iowa is divided into nine AEAs. Each AEA provides local school districts with support and assistance - about 90% of this support is directly related to special education.
	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.
AT	Assistive Technology	Any piece of equipment used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.
ATS	Assistive Technology Service	Any service that directly assists an eligible individual in selecting, acquiring, or using an assistive technology device.
BIP	Behavior Intervention Plan	A formal document that specifies what strategies, approaches, and interventions school, staff will use in response to specific behaviors
BCBA	Board Certified Behavior Analyst	Provide behavior analytic services. In schools, they may conduct FBAs, create BIPs that includes antecedents, target behaviors, and staff responses to behaviors. a graduate-level certification.
CBT	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	School-based cognitive behavioral therapy programs help students develop strategies to solve problems, regulate emotions, and establish helpful patterns of thought and behavior.
CBIT	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Tics	CBIT is a type of behavioral therapy that teaches a person to become aware of their behavior and helps them change how they behave. Used to treat tic patients.
CCS	California Children's Services	A state-wide program that treats children with certain physical limitations and chronic health conditions or diseases.

CDC	California Diagnostic Centers	California Diagnostic Centers in Fremont, Fresno and Los Angeles serve northern, central and southern CA to provide no cost assessment and educational planning services. Requests for services must be generated by referral from the school district.
CAHSEE	California High School Exit Exam	To insure students graduating from HS in CA public schools are able to demonstrate grade-level competency in reading, writing, and math.
CDC	Centers for Disease Control	National public health agency of the United States
CSE CAC	Committee on Special Education Community Advisory Committee on Special Education 504/IEP Team	School team members work together to determine whether your child has a disability or requires special education services – determines how a child's needs will be met in the least restrictive environment (parents, and student, are on the 504 and/or IEP team)
CASE	Community Alliance for Special Education	Offers technical assistance to parents and professionals on state and federally mandated special education rights and services
	Compliance Complaint	A formal assertion in writing that agreed upon services and supports in an IEP have not been delivered, or that the school district has violated IDEA mandates.
	Curriculum	The subject matter that is to be learned, usually described in terms of scope and sequence.
	Curriculum-based Assessment	A methodology in special education in which a child's progress in the curriculum is measured at frequent intervals.
DOR	Department of Rehabilitation	Provides leadership and resources to assist state and other agencies in providing vocational rehabilitation and other services to individuals with disabilities to maximize their employment, independence, and integration into the community and the competitive labor market.
DIS	Designated Instruction and Services	Special education related services that are necessary for a student to benefit from his/her special education program. When deemed necessary, and as determined by the IEP team, DIS/related services may be provided to the student.
	Diagnostic Conference	Meeting with Special Education team that takes place after Review of Existing Data indicates that an evaluation is appropriate. This is the meeting where the student would be determined to be NonDisabled, or where a Diagnosis would be assigned(OHI, LD, etc.
DREDF	Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund	A leading national civil rights law and policy center directed by individuals with disabilities and parents who have children with disabilities.
DS	Disability Suspected	This one can throw parents as many don't like to think of their child as disabled. It simply means something may be impacting a child's performance in school. This would start the need for a Full and Individual Initial Evaluation (IEE).

	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 each receives a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) tailored to his/her unique needs.
EER	Educational Evaluation Report	This is the initial report done completed by the AEA to show whether a student has qualified for special education.
ETC	Educational Team Chairperson	Person who runs a SPED meeting, depending upon the district this person may also be called a Case Manager
EC	Exceptional/Extraordinary Children	Encompasses both gifted and learning disabled, but used with learning disabled more often
	Executive Functioning	These skills underlie the capacity to plan ahead and meet goals, display self-control, follow multiple-step directions even when interrupted, and stay focused despite distractions, among others.
ESSA	Every Student Succeeds Act	ESSA was signed into law in 2015 and replaced the previous education law called “No Child Left Behind.” ESSA extended more flexibility to States in education and laid out expectations of transparency for parents and for communities. ESSA requires every state to measure performance in reading, math, and science.
	Extended School Day	A provision for a special education student to receive instruction for a period longer than the standard school day.
ESY	Extended School Year	A provision for a special education student to receive instruction during ordinary school vacation periods.
	Facilitated IEP	A group leadership process in which a trained individual helps keep the IEP discussion focused on your student and the education issues.
FEP	Family & educator partnership	A program through AESS that develops partnerships between families and schools to promote success for all children.
FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act	A federal law that regulates the management of student records and disclosure of information from those records, with its own administrative enforcement mechanism.
FAPE	Free and Appropriate Public Education	FAPE requires schools to provide special education to meet the unique needs of a child. This can include transportation, one on one classroom aides, services such as occupational therapy, speech and language, and social work. FAPE is a federal law. 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.
FAA	Functional Analysis Assessment	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.

FBA	Functional Behavior Assessment	Typically performed by a BCBA, analyzing the function (the purpose) of behaviors, as well as antecedents and consequences to the behavior
	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.
	Goals and Objectives	A written component of an IEP: skills the student is expected to reasonably achieve in one year maximum (reviewed and re-evaluated by the IEP team at least annually).
	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)
	Inclusion	support services provided by a Special Education teacher or paraprofessional to an individual within the General Education classroom setting. For example, a child with dysgraphia may qualify for English/Language Arts inclusion.
	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.
IEE	Independent Educational Evaluation	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.
IPP	Individual Program Plan (Regional Center)	An action plan that talks about the assistance you need to live the way you want. An IPP identifies your goals, services, and supports so you can be more independent and participate in the community. An IPP is a written agreement and contract between you and the Regional Center
IEP	Individualized Educational Program/Plan	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.
IFSP	Individualized Family Service Plan	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.
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children. Federal law that entitles students with disabilities to special education services.
	Insufficient	Not meeting the legal requirement of IDEA by failing to provide the necessary detailed information and evidence to support a Due Process Complaint.

LRE	Least Restrictive Environment	<p>An environment where a child receives appropriate supports while learning alongside general education peers</p> <p>Students must have meaningful access to same age peers without disabilities, when appropriate. Schools must consider providing any needed services in the general education classroom and other integrated settings. Exposure to mainstream educational environment as much as possible with supports and accommodations, keeping the students needs and abilities at the forefront.</p> <p>A federal mandate stipulating that, to the maximum extent possible, students with disabilities be educated with their non-disabled peers.</p>
LEA	Local Education Agency/Area	A school district.
LEA	Local Educational Representative	School level administration in an IEP meeting that is there to ensure resources are available
	Mainstreaming	This lay term doesn't appear in law. It refers to IDEA's preference for the education of every child in the least restrictive environment (LRE); most widely refers to placement of students with disabilities in general education, rather than segregated, classrooms.
MDM	Manifestation Determination	Meeting is called for a team to determine if a behavior is a manifestation of a disability or if it is not related to the disability. This is necessary to determine the discipline used and whether it can involve removal from school for more than 10 days (consecutively or in total, depending on interpretation of the district) because they cannot be punished for their disability and because removal from school means removal from services if they have an IEP. These meetings are VERY tricky and often seem subjective when it involved ADHD, TS, etc. because it is so hard to tell what is a manifestation. Also, if behavior is a direct manifestation of the disability (i.e. definitely a tic/ coprolalia, etc.) or a secondary manifestation (i.e. pure overwhelm/fatigue/anxiety from so much effort in controlling self).
	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.
	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.
	Modification	A change in curriculum or instruction that substantially alters the requirements of the class or its content standards or benchmarks.
	Neuropsychological evaluation	A neuropsychological evaluation is a test to measure how well a person's brain is working. The abilities tested include reading, language usage, attention, learning, processing speed, reasoning, remembering, problem-solving, mood and personality and more.

OHI	Other Health Impaired	One of 13 disability categories under IDEA Other Health Impaired (OHI) means having limited strength, vitality, or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment due to a chronic or acute health problem, including but not limited to asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, leukemia, kidney disease, sickle cell anemia or Tourette syndrome.
OT	Occupational Therapy	Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants focus on the things you want and need to do in your daily life. Occupational therapy intervention uses everyday life activities (occupations) to promote health, well-being, and your ability to participate in the important activities in your life.
OAH	Office of Administrative Hearings	The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) renders justice through fair, timely, and impartial administrative hearings and high-quality dispute resolution services. Located in each state in the U.S.
OEO	Office of Equal Opportunity / CDE	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 to ensure equal, fair, and meaningful access to its employment and program services.
OVR	Office of Vocational Occupation	The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, or OVR, provides vocational rehabilitation services to help persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain or maintain employment. OVR provides services to eligible individuals with disabilities, both directly and through a network of approved vendors. Services are provided on an individualized basis.
PTI	Parent Training and Information Center	The designated agency that offers workshops and training on special education rights and responsibilities in a parent's locale.
PTE	Permission to Evaluate	Before a child can receive special education and related services for the first time, a full and individual initial evaluation of the child must be conducted to see if the child has a disability and is eligible for special education. Informed parent consent must be obtained before this evaluation may be conducted.
PT	Physical Therapy	The physical therapist will address the tasks that hinder the student's academic progress or participation including gross motor skills, posture, strength, endurance, balance, and coordination.
	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. placement is a set of services, not a location.
PBIS	Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports	This is not a sped term, but is good for parents to understand as many schools practice PBIS and many students on IEPs and 504s may go to CICO (check in check out - point sheet with an identified adult) through PBIS. PBIS promotes academic achievement and behavioral competence of all students.
PLEP	Present Level of Educational Performance	This is a section within an IEP. There is a PLEP A, which encompasses academic areas. There is also a PLEP B, which covers "other" areas of functioning in school, such as social, emotional, behavioral, health, etc. Both will state the impact on the student and where they are at currently
PWN	Prior Written Notice	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. A written notice to families and the entire IEP team providing information on the proposed actions as a part of the IEP. This must be done when ANY changes are made to an IEP.

PSRS	Procedural Safeguards and Referral Services	An office of the CA Dept. of Education (CDE) that provides technical assistance and resources about procedural safeguards and educational rights of students with disabilities, from ages 3 up to 22nd birthday. Compliance Complaints are filed here.
	Progress Monitoring	Progress monitoring is used to assess students' academic performance, quantify their rates of improvement or progress toward goals, and determine how they are responding to instruction.
PAI	Protection and Advocacy, Inc.	
	Psychoeducational Evaluation	Psychoeducational evaluation is a process by which a trained professional works with those involved in a child's learning or development to identify the child's strengths and weaknesses. Its goal is to enhance everyone's ability to help the child be as successful as possible.
RR	Reevaluation report	usually done every 3 years this either reconsiders existing data or new evaluation is done to assess student needs.
	Related Services [aka] Designated Instruction and Services (DIS) in CA	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.
	Resource Room	
RSP	Resource Specialist Program	
RTI	Response to Intervention	Aims to identify struggling students early on and give them the support they need to thrive in school.
RED	Review of Existing Data	Initial meeting with Special Education Team to review information in order to determine if an evaluation or re-evaluation is appropriate.
504	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act	Section 504 protects qualified individuals with disabilities. Under this law, individuals with disabilities are defined as persons with a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities.
	Separate Location	Separate locations (for example, the special education resource room, a vacant classroom, or a conference room) are generally used for small-group or individual testing
SDC	Special Day Class	A "Special Day Class" aka SDC is basically a self-contained classroom with a special education instructor and various support personnel, such as aides. An SDC is usually located in a comprehensive/regular school, but is separate from the main student body.
SPED	Special Education	Specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of an eligible individual, including the specially designed instruction conducted in schools, in the home, in hospitals and institutions, and in other settings. Special education provides a continuum of services in order to provide for the education needs of each eligible individual regardless of the nature or severity of the educational needs.

SELPA	Special Education Local Plan Area	A consortium of school districts, within a geographical service area, responsible for ensuring that every child eligible for special education receives appropriate services. Each SELPA's Local Plan, based on Federal and California law and regulations, describes how special education services are provided.
SERR	<i>Special Education Rights and Responsibilities</i>	This manual explains how to become eligible for special education, how to request and advocate for special education services, and what to do if you disagree with school districts.
SDI	Specialized Instruction/Specially Designed Instruction	Instruction that is tailored to a particular student. It addresses their Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals; accounts for their disability; provides modifications or adaptations to content; and encourages access to the general education curriculum. The minutes a special education teacher spends directly teaching a student with an IEP in their goal area.
SLP	Speech Language Pathologist	SLPs help students with a wide range of speech–language-related problems to meet performance standards. Their work includes prevention, assessment, intervention, and program design efforts that are integrated within a school.
	Stay Put	The ruling that permits a student to remain in their current placement during any dispute concerning special education services.
	Sufficiency	Meeting the legal requirement of IDEA in providing the necessary detailed information and evidence to support a due process complaint.
	Transition Plan	A plan to coordinate a set of activities that promote movement from school to post- school education, vocational training, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation. Transition goals are determined by the IEP team beginning at least by age 16 and are based on student and family vision, preferences, and interests.
2e	Twice Exceptional	A student who is both academically or intellectually gifted and has a disability. AIG + 504/IEP
DOE	U.S. Department of Education	The U.S. Department of Education is the agency of the federal government that establishes policy for, administers and coordinates most federal assistance to education.
OCR	U.S. Office for Civil Rights	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.
OSERS	U.S. Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Programs	An agency of the federal government's executive branch within the Department of Education (DOE).
OSEP	U.S. Office of Special Education Programs / DOE	An office within OSERS charged with assuring that the various states comply with IDEA.