

# Special Education Acronym Alphabet Soup

In Special Education there are often many uncommon or confusing terms and acronyms used. Below is a compiled list of commonly used acronyms that you may see on an IEP or hear in discussions about special education. Please keep in mind, when in a meeting if you are unsure about a word or acronym; please don't hesitate to ask for clarification.

For a more extensive list of Washington State Education Acronyms you can also visit:  
OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) <http://www.k12.wa.us/generalinfo/acronyms.aspx>

**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

**ADLs** | Activities of Daily Living

**ADR** | Alternative Dispute Resolution

**AE** | Age Equivalent

**AIM** | Accessible Instructional Materials

**APE** | Adaptive Physical Education

**APR** | Annual Performance Report

**ARD** | Admission, Review, and Dismissal Committee

**ASD** | Autism Spectrum Disorder

**ASL** | American Sign Language

**AT** | Assistive Technology

**ATA** | Assistive Technology Act

**AYP** | Adequate Yearly Progress

**BD** | Behavioral Disorder

**BIE** | Bureau of Indian Education

**BIP** | Behavioral Intervention Plan

**BOE** | Board of Education

**CAA** | Certificate of Academic Achievement

**CAP** | Corrective Action Plan

**CAPD** | Central Auditory Processing Disorder

**CAPTA** | Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

**CBA** | Curriculum Based Assessment

**CBPA** | Classroom Based Performance Assessments

**CC** | Closed Captioning

**CCR** | College and Career Readiness Standards

**CCSS** | Common Core State Standards

**CD** | Communication Disorder

**CDA** | Child Development Associate

**CDC** | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**CEC** | Council for Exceptional Children

**CF** | Cystic Fibrosis

**CFR** | Code of Federal Regulations

**CHIP** | Children’s Health Insurance Program

**CIA** | Certificate of Individual Achievement

**CIFMS** | Continuous Improvement and Focused Monitoring System

**COE** | Collection of Evidence

**COP** | Community of Practice

**COTA** | Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant

**CP** | Cerebral Palsy

**CPRC** | Community Parent Resource Center

**CSHCN** | Children with Special Health Care Needs

**CST** | Child Study Team

**CTE** | Career and Technical Education

**DB** | Deaf-Blind

**DCFS** | Division of Children and Family Services

**DD** | Developmental Delay

**DDA** | Developmental Disabilities Association

**DEL** | Department of Early Learning

**DOB** | Date of Birth

**DOH** | Department of Health

**DS** | Down Syndrome

**DSHS** | Department of Social and Health Services

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

**DVR** | Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

**EBP** | Evidence Based Practice

**ECE** | Early Childhood Education

**ECEAP** | Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program

**ECP** | Emergency Care Plan

**ECSE** | Early Childhood Special Education

**ED** | Emotional Disturbance

**EF** | Executive Function

**EHDI** | Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

**EI** | Early Intervention

**EIS** | Early Intervening Services

**ELA** | English Language Arts

**ELL** | English Language Learner

**EOC** | End of Course Exam

**EPSDT** | Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment

**ERIC** | Educational Resources Information Center

**ESA** | Educational Staff Associates

**ESD** | Educational Service District

**ESD** | Extended School Day

**ESEA** | Elementary and Secondary Education Act

**ESIT** | Early Supports for Infant and Toddlers

**ESY** | Extended School Year  
**FAPE** | Free Appropriate Public Education  
**FAS** | Fetal Alcohol Syndrome  
**FBA** | Functional Behavioral Assessment  
**FC** | Facilitated Communication  
**FERPA** | Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act  
**FOC** | Focus of Concern  
**FOIA** | Freedom of Information Act  
**FTE** | Full-Time Equivalent  
**GE** | General Education  
**GE** | General Equivalent  
**GLE** | Grade Level Expectations  
**GPA** | Grade Point Average  
**GPRA** | Government Performance and Results Act  
**GT** | Gifted and Talented  
**HI** | Hearing Impaired or Health Impaired  
**HIPAA** | Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act  
**HO** | Hearing Officer  
**HoH** | Hard of Hearing  
**HSPE** | High School Proficiency Exam  
**HQT** | Highly Qualified Teacher  
**IA** | Instructional Assistant  
**ID** | Intellectual Disabilities  
**IDEA** | Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
**IDT** | Interdisciplinary Team  
**IEE** | Individualized Educational Evaluation  
**IEP** | Individualized Education Program  
**IFSP** | Individualized Family Service Plan  
**IHE** | Institution of Higher Education

**IHP** | Individual Health Plan

**IQ** | Intelligence Quotient

**ITP** | Individualized Transition Plan

**LAP** | Learning Assistance Program

**LD** | Learning Disability

**LDA** | Locally Determined Assessment

**LEA** | Local Education Agency

**LEP** | Limited English Proficiency

**LPN** | Licensed Practical Nurse

**LRE** | Least Restrictive Environment

**MA** | Mental Age

**MD** | Multiple Disabilities

**MD** | Muscular Dystrophy

**MDR** | Manifestation Determination Review

**MDT** | Multi-Disciplinary Team

**MOU** | Memorandum of Understanding

**NA** | Not Applicable

**NCLB** | No Child Left Behind Act (Elementary and Secondary Education Act)

**NPRM** | Notice of Proposed Rule Making

**OCD** | Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

**OCR** | Office for Civil Rights

**ODD** | Oppositional Defiant Disorder

**OHI** | Other Health Impairment

**OI** | Orthopedic Impairment

**O & M** | Orientation and Mobility Services

**OSEP** | Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education

**OSPI** | Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

**OT** | Occupational Therapy

**Part B** | Special Education– School Age Children

**Part C** | Special Education– Birth to Three

**P&A** | Protection & Advocacy

**PALS** | Peer-Assisted Learning System

**PARCC** | Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

**PASS** | Plan for Achieving Self-Support

**PBIS** | Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports

**PBS** | Positive Behavioral Supports

**PCA** | Personal Care Attendant

**PDA** | Parent Designated Adult

**PDD** | Pervasive Developmental Disorder

**PE** | Physical Education

**PEI** | Spanish acronym for the Individualized Education Program (Plan Educativo Individualizado)

**PI** | Physically Impaired

**PII** | Personally Identifiable Information

**PLAAFP** | Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance

**PP** | Paraprofessional

**PS** | Preschool

**PT** | Physical Therapy

**RCW** | Revised Code of Washington

**RDA** | Results-Driven Accountability

**RFP** | Request for Proposals

**RN** | Registered Nurse

**RS** | Related Services

**RTI** | Response to Intervention

**§** | This symbol means “Section” as in “§ 300.7 Child with a disability” in the IDEA regulations

**SAS** | Supplementary Aids and Services

**SB** | Spina Bifida

**SBA** | Smarter Balanced Assessment

**SCHIP** | State Children’s Health Insurance Program  
**SDI** | Specially Designed Instruction  
**SE** | Special Education  
**SEA** | State Education Agency  
**SEAC** | Special Education Advisory Council  
**Section 504** | Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act  
**SED** | Serious Emotional Disturbance  
**SLD** | Specific Learning Disability  
**SLI** | Speech/Language Impairment  
**SLP** | Speech/Language Pathologist  
**SPD** | Sensory Processing Disorder  
**SPP** | State Performance Plan  
**SS** | Standard Score  
**SSA** | Social Security Administration  
**SSDI** | Social Security Disability Income  
**SSI** | Supplemental Security Income  
**SST** | Student Study Team  
**STO** | Short Term Objective  
**TBI** | Traumatic Brain Injury  
**TDD** | Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf  
**TS** | Tourette syndrome  
**T&TA** | Training and Technical Assistance  
**TTY** | Teletypewriter (phone system for the deaf)  
**VI** | Visual Impairment  
**VR** | Vocational Rehabilitation  
**WAC** | Washington Administrative Code  
**WAAS** | Washington Alternate Assessment System  
**WATAP** | Washington Assistive Technology Act Program