

Key Terms and Acronyms in Special Education Law

FAPE	<p>Free Appropriate Public Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An educational right of children with disabilities in the United States that is guaranteed by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
IDEA	<p>The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides educational protections for students who meet criteria necessary for classification in one of the thirteen categories specified under the act.
IEP	<p>Individualized Education Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A written statement detailing the unique educational needs and services provided to a student with a qualifying disability under IDEA.
Section 504	<p>Anti-discrimination act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protects students from discrimination based on their disability. Encompasses a broader range of disabilities than IDEA.

504 Plan	<p>Document generated from Anti-discrimination act provisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents strategies and resources afforded to a student with a disability affecting a major life activity in order to prevent discrimination in school.
CSE	<p>Committee on Special Education (age 5-12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multidisciplinary team, that includes parents and students, responsible for students with disabilities from ages 5-21. The CSE is authorized to identify students in need of services by determining eligibility and develop an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to meet each student's individual needs.
CPSE	<p>Committee on Preschool Special Education (age 3-5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to CSE, for students ages 3-5.
LRE	<p>Least Restrictive Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the IDEA students must be educated in a classroom setting as close to a general education setting as possible where than can still make academic gains.
MDR	<p>Manifestation Determination Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting to determine whether or not a student's misconduct is a result of their disability or school's failure to implement their IEP when that student is facing a suspension that will exceed 5 days or has been removed from the classroom setting for 10 days (or the equivalent of 10 days).

BIP	<p>Behavior Intervention Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written plan that targets a student’s undesirable behavior(s) with interventions that are clearly measurable, including prevention strategies and replacement behaviors.
FBA	<p>Functional Behavior Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A process which examines a student’s disruptive behaviors, looks for the reasons behind the behaviors and offers interventions that teach new behaviors to replace the undesired ones.
AT	<p>Assistive Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any device, equipment or software that helps a student with a disability increase, maintain or improve their functional capabilities (excludes medical devices).
EI	<p>Early Intervention (age 0-3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A system of services that helps babies and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities from birth to their third birthdays.
IFSP	<p>Individualized Family Service Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written treatment plan that maps out the early intervention services a child (age birth to his/her third birthday) will receive, as well as how and when these services will be administered. It details a child’s current levels of functioning, specific needs and goals for treatment (referred to as outcomes).

RCT	<p>Regents Competency Test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exit exams given to identified special education students with Individualized Education Programs or a 504 plan seeking a high school diploma who cannot pass the standard Regents exams.
15:1:1	A type of classroom structure common on an IEP or 504 plan consisting of 15 students, 1 teacher, and 1 aid.
12:1:1	A type of classroom structure common on an IEP or 504 plan consisting of 12 students, 1 teacher, and 1 aid.
6:1:1	A type of classroom structure common on an IEP or 504 plan consisting of 6 students, 1 teacher, and 1 aid.

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This article provides general information about this subject. Laws affecting this subject may have changed since this article was written. For specific legal advice about a problem you are having, get the advice of a lawyer. Receiving this information does not make you a client of our office.

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Table of Contents

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News & publications

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1 Nov 2024

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