

The IEP details how we're providing FAPE in the LRE.

IS THIS YOU AT AN IEP MEETING?

WTF?!?

GUIDE TO ACRONYMS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

DO YOU GET LOST IN THE JARGON?

Sometimes when you're at a special ed meeting for your child, the school staff start throwing around a lot of special ed acronyms. You can wind up feeling either really overwhelmed or really stupid. Print out this guide to take with you to your next meeting. And remember, the school has the responsibility to explain anything that you don't understand to you.

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Common Special Education Acronyms

504 Plan	A support plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act	This is a plan to put accommodations and supports in place that allow persons with disabilities equal access to the general ed curriculum. It differs from an IEP because it does not provide specialized instruction.
ARD	Admission, Review & Dismissal	What Texas Education Agency calls the IEP process, committee & meeting.
AT	Assistive Technology	Any device that assists the student to access the general ed curriculum. Schools tend to favor "low tech" and count slant boards as an assistive tech.
BIP	Behavior Intervention Plan	For students with behavior issues (autism, ADHD, etc.), the BIP lists the behavior goals. A BIP cannot/should not be developed without an FBA
ECI	Early Childhood Intervention	A part of IDEA that covers services for children with disabilities from 0-3, and covered under Part C of the law.
FAPE	Free and Appropriate Education	The key right that IDEA gives to students. Any time the school puts the student in a program that doesn't work or denies services to a child with a disability, it is considered denial of FAPE .
FBA	Functional Behavior Assessment	This is the evaluation that gives the information for the BIP . While there is no definition of what an FBA is, the purpose is to determine what the function of the behavior is. An FBA should NEVER be done sitting at the IEP/ARD committee table. It should ideally be done by a BCBA
FERPA	Family Education Rights and Privacy Act	Prevents school personnel to reveal details of a student's educational history to staff or other persons not involved with the child and without the family's permission.
FIE	Full Individual Evaluation	The evaluation is the first step in the sped process. Every area of a suspected disability is supposed to be evaluated , but schools usually miss areas unless the parents specifically ask. An FIE can consist of anywhere between 3 to 15+ evaluations depending on the needs of the child.



IDEA	Individual with Disabilities Education Act	This is the federal law that governs special ed services.
IEE	Independent Educational Evaluation	If the parents disagree with the results of the FIE , they can request the school pay for an evaluator who doesn't work for the district to do an evaluation.
IEP	Individual Education Plan There is an IEP Committee & IEP meeting of that Committee	This is the name of the contract between parent and the school that details what goals the student will achieve, and what services and supports the school will provide.
IFSP	Individualized Family Service Plan	A plan for a child 0-3 receiving services under ECI.
LEA	Local Education Agency	What IDEA calls the school system providing educational resources. It can be used interchangeably with school district.
LRE	Least Restrict Environment	General Education. The whole purpose of IDEA is to provide services and supports so that a child with disabilities can be educated with their non-disabled peers to maximum allowed by the child's educational needs.
LSSP	Licensed Specialist in School Psychology	This is a master's level psychologist used specifically in Texas. They are only allowed to practice in schools.
OCR	US Office for Civil Rights	Office that oversees the administrative of 504 rules and investigates complaints.
OSEP	US Office of Special Education Programs/DOE	The federal office that administers IDEA.
OSERS	US Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Programs	
OT	Occupational Therapist	A master's level professional who provides occupational therapy to children with sensory issues, handwriting issues, trouble navigating the school, etc.
OTA	Occupational Therapy Assistant	A bachelor level trained specialists hired to work under the supervision of OT's in Texas public schools.
PPCD	Pre-school program for children with disabilities	Elementary school based programs for children ages 3-5. It is intended to be the next step for children with disabilities as they age out of ECI services.
PTI	Parent Training and Information Centers	IDEA funds a non-profit for a national as well as local state education center for parents to train them on their rights for free. Do a websearch to find the one for your state.



PWN	Prior Written Notice	The document that the school must provide to the parent to explain what evaluations, services, and supports they are providing or refusing to provide to a student. The document must state what data and evaluations they are using to make that determination.
SLP	Speech Language Pathologist	A master's level professional who provide speech services to children with articulation, communication or pragmatic issues
SLP-A	Speech Language Pathology Assistant	A bachelor's level speech professional who provide basic speech services like articulation to children with those needs. They require supervision by SLPs.
Sped	Special Education	



The 13 Areas of Disability Eligibility

AI	Auditory Impairment (also called Hearing impairment)	One of the 13 sped labels –covers a wide range of hearing loss. In Texas there is an AI supplement that covers additional services to be considered.
AU	Autism Spectrum Disorders	One of the 13 sped labels. Please note that even though the medical definition of autism changed in 2013, the educational definition did not. Do not allow a school to use DSM-V criteria to determine whether you child qualifies for services under the label of autism because they are not allowed to medically diagnosis children. In Texas there is an autism supplement covering services to be considered.
DB	Deaf-blindness	One of the 13 sped labels
D	Deafness (hearing impaired)	One of the 13 sped labels
ED	Emotional Disturbance	One of the 13 sped labels. Please note that a child canNOT carry the label of ASD and ED. The school must choose one or the other. Can be the category for children with ADHD and severe behavior issues.
ID	Intellectual Disability	One of the 13 sped labels. Used to be primarily determined by IQ. IQ lower than 70 was considered ID. Now looking more at adaptive behavior issues and delays in skills that allow independence. Children with Down’s are often served under this category.
MI	Multiply Impairments	One of the 13 sped labels. Refers to children with mobility, cognitive, and other issues.
OI	Orthopedic Impairment	One of the 13 sped labels. Children with CP can often be served under this category.
OHI	Other Health Impairment	One of the 13 sped labels. Covers a wide variety of health issues. ADHD without the severe opposition behaviors is usually placed in this category.
SI	Speech Impairment	One of the 13 sped labels. Covers anything from articulation issues to children who don’t use language to communicate.
SLD	Specific Learning Disability	One of the 13 sped labels. This covers a wide range of specific issues that impacts a child’s ability to read, write, or do math. Can include: dyslexia (yes, DYSLEXIA is a condition served



		by sped); dysgraphia; dyscalculia; auditory processing disorder, etc.
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury	One of the 13 sped labels. Covers a wide variety of conditions from stroke, head injury, etc.
VI	Visual Impairment including Blindness	One of the 13 sped labels. Covers any trouble taking in visual information. In Texas there is a VI supplement that covers services to be considered.

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