



# Acronyms in Education

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Most professional fields have their own collection of jargon, the technical terminology specific to that group. As part of the jargon, acronyms often help group members communicate in a simplified manner; unfortunately, acronyms can also exclude those unfamiliar with the terms being used. This problem is particularly salient in education, where acronyms continually multiply with the passing of new laws and adoption of local school policy, potentially creating a communication barrier between educators and the community.

It is easy to become overwhelmed by the acronyms for different classifications, diagnoses, school team names and personnel, and professional organizations all housed within the fields of general and special education. Before exposure and experience produce familiarity with the various terms, the jargon can frustrate those new to the field. But more importantly, many parents and guardians who are never exposed to the jargon can find themselves intimidated and overwhelmed in their interactions with schools (e.g., IEP meetings). Below is a list of common terms and acronyms from education, ideal as a handout for parents, teachers, and graduate students.

<b>ABA</b>	Applied Behavior Analysis
<b>ADA</b>	Americans with Disabilities Act
<b>ADD</b>	Attention Deficit Disorder
<b>ADHD</b>	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
<b>AP</b>	Assistant Principal
<b>APE</b>	Adapted Physical Education
<b>APA</b>	American Psychological Association
<b>ASD</b>	Autism Spectrum Disorder
<b>AYP</b>	Adequate Yearly Progress
<b>BCBA</b>	Board Certified Behavior Analyst
<b>BD</b>	Behavior Disorder
<b>BICS</b>	Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills
<b>BIP</b>	Behavior Intervention Plan
<b>CALP</b>	Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency
<b>CBA</b>	Curriculum-Based Assessment
<b>CBE</b>	Curriculum-Based Evaluation
<b>CBM</b>	Curriculum-Based Measurement
<b>CBT</b>	Cognitive–Behavioral Therapy
<b>CD</b>	Conduct Disorder
<b>CFS</b>	Child and Family Services
<b>CPS</b>	Child Protective Services
<b>CST</b>	Child Study Team
<b>DD</b>	Developmental Delay
<b>DMH</b>	Department of Mental Health

<b>DSM</b>	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
<b>EBD</b>	Emotional–Behavioral Disorder
<b>EBI/EBP</b>	Evidence-Based Intervention/Practice
<b>ED</b>	Emotionally Disturbed
<b>ELL</b>	English Language Learner
<b>ESL</b>	English as a Second Language
<b>ESY</b>	Extended School Year
<b>FAPE</b>	Free Appropriate Public Education
<b>FARM</b>	Free and Reduced Meals
<b>FBA</b>	Functional Behavioral Assessment
<b>FERPA</b>	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
<b>FRL</b>	Free and Reduced Lunch
<b>GAD</b>	Generalized Anxiety Disorder
<b>GT/GATE/TAG</b>	Gifted and Talented
<b>ID</b>	Intellectual Disability
<b>IDEA</b>	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
<b>IEP</b>	Individualized Education Plan
<b>IFSP</b>	Individualized Family Service Plan
<b>LD</b>	Learning Disability
<b>IQ</b>	Intelligence Quotient
<b>LEA</b>	Local Education Agency
<b>LEP</b>	Limited English Proficiency
<b>LGBTQ</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, & Questioning
<b>LRE</b>	Least Restrictive Environment
<b>MDT</b>	Multidisciplinary Team
<b>MR</b>	Mentally Retarded
<b>NASP</b>	National Association of School Psychologists
<b>NCLB</b>	No Child Left Behind
<b>NCSP</b>	Nationally Certified School Psychologist
<b>NOS</b>	Not Otherwise Specified
<b>OCD</b>	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
<b>ODD</b>	Oppositional Defiant Disorder
<b>OHI</b>	Other Health Impairment
<b>ORF</b>	Oral Reading Fluency
<b>OT/PT</b>	Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy
<b>PBIS</b>	Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support
<b>PD</b>	Professional Development
<b>PDD</b>	Pervasive Developmental Disorder
<b>PLOP</b>	Present Level of Performance
<b>PPW</b>	Pupil Personnel Worker
<b>PRF</b>	Passage Reading Fluency
<b>PTSD</b>	Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
<b>RTI</b>	Response to Intervention
<b>SAD</b>	Separation Anxiety Disorder
<b>SAT</b>	Student Assistance Team
<b>SEA</b>	State Education Agency
<b>SES</b>	Socioeconomic Status

<b>SLD</b>	Specific Learning Disability
<b>SLP</b>	Speech–Language Pathologist
<b>SPED</b>	Special Education
<b>SST</b>	Student Support Team/Student Study Team/Student Success Team
<b>SWPBS</b>	School Wide Positive Behavior Supports
<b>TAT</b>	Teacher Assistance Team
<b>TBI</b>	Traumatic Brain Injury
<b>Title 1</b>	Federal program to fund schools with high concentrations of student poverty.
<b>WCPM</b>	Words Correct Per Minute
<b>504 Plan</b>	The modifications/accommodations needed for students with disabilities to fully participate in all school activities

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