

# Understanding Special Education Terms and Abbreviations



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**Parent Mentor Project and  
Special Education Department  
Allen County Educational Service Center**

# Special Education Dictionary

*with a Focus on Students with Disabilities*

**ABA-Applied Behavior Analysis** is an intensive behavior intervention for children with autism or other developmental disorders.

**Accessibility Features**- is a term used primarily with the Next Generation tests (see PARCC). Accessibility features are broader than accommodations. There are four different levels of these features. Some of the features are available to students not identified on an IEP or 504 plan. For more information, log onto *education.ohio.gov* and read the document "Clarification on Accessibility and Accommodations for New State Tests".

**Accommodations** are supports and services to help a student access the curriculum and demonstrate their learning. Accommodations are unlike modifications in that they do not change the content and performance expectations for what a student should learn.

**ACBDD-Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities** is an agency that serves individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The County Board serves eligible individuals from infancy through adulthood. Persons must meet eligibility requirements for enrollment.

**ACESC- Allen County Educational Service Center** is a local agency providing specialized services for school districts and special education students. The ESC serves school districts and students enrolled in Allen County public schools other than Lima City Schools.

**Adaptive Behavior** is a sort of "practical intelligence." It is usually measured by scales that identify how well a student manages with independence within his or her own environment.

**Age of Majority/Transfer of Rights**- Beginning not later than one year before a student turns 18, a student is informed of his rights under IDEIA. Transfer of rights occurs when student turns eighteen.

**AIMSweb** is a benchmark and progress monitoring system based on direct, frequent and continuous "snapshot" assessments of a student's math and reading ability.

**Allen County FCFC- Allen County Family and Children First Council** is a consortium of child-serving agencies. The FCFC coordinator may assist in service coordination for individual families and take referrals for wrap-around planning for families of children with intense needs. FCFC oversees the Help Me Grow Program (see E.I.) and Intersystems Committee.

**Alternate Assessment-Ohio's Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD)** are tests designed to allow students with significant cognitive disabilities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. The majority of students with disabilities do *not* take the alternate assessment, but are given accommodations to take the same tests given to students without disabilities.

**The Arc of Allen County** is a local agency that provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities through a variety of settings and programs. The Arc of Allen County provides day care, educational training, and human rights advocacy. The Arc also operates a summer camp program for children and adults.

**Assistive Technology** means any device, piece of equipment or product system that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functioning of a student with a disability. Assistive technology can be as simple as a pencil grip or slant board or as complex as a high-tech communication device. This does not include medical devices that are surgically implanted.

**Assistive Technology Services** are services that assist a child with the selection, acquisition or use of a device. The IEP team must consider the need for assistive technology for a student.

**BCMh- Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps** is a tax-supported health care program in the Ohio Department of Health that has been serving children with special health care needs and their families since 1919. There are three core programs for children with special health care needs: diagnostic, treatment and service coordination. Each program requires medical and/or financial criteria to be met before a child/adult can be eligible to receive BCMh services.

**Bittersweet at Betty's Farm** is a local provider of services for individuals with autism. There are fees for services.

**BIP-Behavior Intervention Plan** is a plan to address behavior of a child that is not appropriate at school.

**Benchmark** is a specific statement of what a child should know and be able to do in a specified segment of the year. Benchmarks describe how far the child is expected to progress toward the annual goal and by when. Benchmarks allow for regular checks of progress that coincide with reporting periods, and they inform parents of the child's progress toward achieving the annual goals.

**CAD-Center for Autism and Dyslexia** is an Autism Scholarship and Jon Peterson Scholarship provider (see entry for scholarship programs).

**COEDI/OEDI-Children's Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument/Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument** (pronounced "co-eddy" and "o-eddy") are tools to record information about an individual's current functional abilities. The COEDI is used for children age six to fifteen and the OEDI is used for individuals age sixteen and older. The COEDI and OEDI are used as a part of the eligibility process for enrollment in the County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Eligibility criteria is different for children needing preschool services. If your child with a disability is transitioning to Kindergarten or a school age program, you may want to inquire about the COEDI.

**CDC-Children's Developmental Center** is a preschool serving children with special needs. CDC is a long-standing community resource. It is located in Lima Memorial Hospital.

**Charter Schools** are independent public schools that receive money from a school district or a state department of education but are not governed by the local school board and do not have to meet the requirements.

**Compensatory Education** is broadly defined as a remedy owed to children with a disability who have been denied a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

**DIEBLS- Dynamic Indicators of Early Basic Literacy Skills** are a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of early literacy skills from kindergarten through sixth grade.

**DOOD- Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities**

**DSM-5 –Diagnostic and Statistical Manual** is the classification used by the American Psychiatric Association to describe behavioral and emotional disorders. There are significant changes in the fifth edition in the classification of Autism Spectrum Disorders.

**Due Process** is series of steps listed in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, IDEIA of 2004 that protects the rights of parents and their children with disabilities.

**EI-Early Intervention** (birth to age three services) **Help Me Grow** is an EI program that provides home visiting, service coordination, resource and referral services for eligible families of young children. Services are provided through an **IFSP-Individual Family Service Plan**. Help Me Grow also provides free developmental screenings for children age birth to five several times a year in our community.

**Eligibility Categories** - The following are the categories under which students may be eligible for special education services, using testing criteria that meet “Ohio’s Operating Standards for Ohio Education Agencies Serving Children with Disabilities”. For more information, visit the website: [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov).

☒ **Autism.**

☒ **Deaf-blindness**

☒ **Deafness**

☒ **ED- Emotional Disturbance**

☒ **HI-Hearing Impairment**

☒ **Intellectual Disability (Cognitive Disability formerly used)**

☒ **MD- Multiple Disabilities – (formerly known as MH)**

☒ **OI – Orthopedic Impairment**

☒ **OHI- Other Health Impaired**

☒ **Preschool child with a disability**-Children who are at least three years of age; and not six who demonstrate a documented deficit in one or more areas of development. Preschool children with disabilities may receive public education preschool services at no cost. An IEP is written.

☒ **SLD - Specific Learning Disability**

☒ **Speech and Language Impaired**

☒ **TBI -Traumatic Brain Injury (also called Head Injury)**

☒ **Visual Impairment**

**EMIS- Education Management Information System** is a computerized information and data reporting system.

**Employment First** is an initiative in Ohio that promotes the integration of individuals with developmental disabilities into the competitive workforce.

**ESY-Extended School Year Services** are special education and related services that are provided beyond the normal school year in accordance with the child's IEP.

**ETR -Evaluation Team Report** (formerly called the MFE or Multi-factored Evaluation Report) is a report of the evaluations given to a child suspected of having a disability. It is shared and agreed upon by the evaluation team (which includes a child's parents) and is used to determine eligibility for special education. An ETR meeting is held every three years unless the parents and team decide differently.

**Facilitated IEP meeting** is a voluntary process where all parties agree to an IEP meeting that is facilitated by a specially trained impartial third party available through ODE. Typically a facilitator is called when the school district and parents are having difficulties in communicating with one another about the child's needs. This process should begin before parties consider mediation, filing a complaint or due process.

**FRC-Family Resource Center** is a local provider of mental health services for children.

**FRS-Family Resource Services** is a program operated by the Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities in which eligible families can receive financial assistance for services such as respite for their family member with a disability. Eligibility and current enrollment are necessary for services.

**FAPE - Free and Appropriate Public Education** is a right of all children, including children with disabilities.

**FBA-Functional Behavior Assessment** is a process that may include interviews, direct observation and other evaluations of the student's behaviors.

**FERPA -Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act-** A federal law that

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**FERPA -Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act-** A federal law that protects the privacy and transfer of student education records.

**Great Day Academy** is the name of the self-contained Autism classrooms operated by the Allen County ESC. The Great Day Academy is located in the Bath Middle School building.

**HEATH Resource Center** is the national clearinghouse on post-secondary education for individuals with disabilities. <http://heath.gwu.edu/>

**IAES-** Interim Alternate Educational Setting

**IAT -Intervention Assistance Team** is a school based problem-solving group whose purpose is to assist teachers with intervention strategies for dealing with the learning needs of students. Interventions must be documented before referral for special education.

**IDEIA or IDEA '04** -Individuals with Disabilities Improvement ActLaws regarding Special Education were updated and reauthorized by Congress and signed into law by President Bush on December 3, 2004. IDEIA went into effect in July 2004.

**IEE-Independent Educational Evaluation-** If parents disagree with the school district's evaluation, they may have their child evaluated by someone outside the school system. They may have the testing done at no cost. Parents may help choose the independent evaluator but the tests must be given by qualified professionals and indicate that the child's disability adversely affects his or her academic performance.

**Interventions** are strategies or supports provided by the school district to address academic or behavioral concerns for any student who is performing below grade-level standards. An example of an intervention would be to provide the student with seating near the teacher in order to help him or her focus on the lesson being taught.

**Intersystems Committee** is a clinical committee of Allen County Family and Children First Council that consists of representatives of child-serving agencies. Intersystems meets bimonthly to support, monitor and secure service coordination for children with intensive, multi-systemic needs.

**Intervention Specialist-(Special Education Teacher)** An Intervention Specialist is responsible for Special Education compliance for their students with disabilities and will upon occasion work with students not identified as having a disability.

**KRA-Kindergarten Readiness Assessment** This is a test to measure a child's school readiness. It has six components: social skills (including social and emotional development, and approaches toward learning), mathematics, science, social studies, language and literacy, and physical well-being and motor development. All kindergarten children will take the assessment soon after entering kindergarten. The results of the assessment provide a starting point for each child and do not prohibit any child from entering kindergarten.

## **LEA- Local Education Agency (local school)**

**LRE - Least Restrictive Environment-** School districts shall insure that to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities are educated with children who are nondisabled.

**Mediation** is a voluntary process of resolving disputes between two parties that is led by a mediator – a trained, impartial third party.

**Manifestation Determination** is a review conducted by the IEP team to determine the relationship between a child’s disability subject to disciplinary action such as suspension or expulsion.

**Modifications** change the content and performance expectations for what a student should learn. Modifications are spelled out in an IEP.

**NSTTAC-National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center** ([nstattac.org](http://nstattac.org)) provides a wealth of information on transition to adult life. Although the website leans heavily toward professional resources, there is a lot of helpful information under the “students and families” tab.

**OCALI-Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence** is a state agency that assists professionals and families with training and resources for Autism and Traumatic Brain Injury and other disabilities. Website [ocali.org](http://ocali.org) has extensive internet modules on autism and assistive technology. OCALI also has a large lending library of materials for families and professionals.

**OCECD - Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities** is the federally mandated Parent Training and Information Center for Ohio. OCECD provides training and advocacy for families and professionals. OCECD also has an extensive lending library of disability-related items.

**OCR- Office for Civil Rights** oversees **Section 504** of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

**OEC-Office for Exceptional Children** is a department of the Ohio Department of Education that oversees Special Education.

**OOD-Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities** (formerly RSC or Rehabilitation Services Commission)

**Orientation and Mobility** is a related service focusing on training a child with a disability (particularly visual impairments) to move independently within his environment.

## **OT - Occupational Therapy**

**Parent Mentor** is a parent of a child with a disability who provides information and support to families of children with disabilities and school districts.

**PARCC Next Generation Assessments-** PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) is the name of the set of computer-based assessments in English, Language Arts/ Literacy (ELA) and Math linked to the Common Core State Standards. Next Generation computer-based assessments linked to the Common Core Standards for Science and Social Studies are called **AIR**. These tests replace paper and pencil achievement tests in Ohio. Discuss with your child’s IEP team, if you feel that your child needs testing accommodations.

**PBIS-Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports** is a proactive approach of establishing the behavior supports and school culture that students need to achieve social, emotional and academic success.

**Progress Monitoring** is a practice that collects data to assess students' academic performance and evaluate the effectiveness of instruction. Progress monitoring can be implemented with individual students or an entire class.

**Project SEARCH** is a training program for students with disabilities who have met all their High School credits but defer graduation for one year. Students participate in three ten- week internships immersed in a work environment. The intended outcome is community employment. Our local Project SEARCH is a collaboration between St. Rita's Medical Center, Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities, local schools and VR/OOD.

**PWN- Prior Written Notice (sometimes referred to form PR-01)** A school must provide parents with notification in writing when they propose or refuse to initiate a change in the identification, evaluation, educational placement or provision of FAPE.

**Procedural Safeguards** is a booklet or document given or offered to parents when a child is referred for evaluation for Special Education and at other key meetings such as IEP meetings. This document explains parental rights under IDEIA.

### **PT - Physical Therapy**

**SAFY Behavioral Health** is a local provider of mental health and autism identification and consultation services.

**Scholarship Programs** for Special Education. Parents considering scholarship programs may research through the ODE website at: [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov).

**Autism Scholarship**-The Autism Scholarship Program (ASP) gives the parents of children with autism who qualify for a scholarship the choice to send the child to a special education program other than the one operated by the school district of residence to receive their education and the services outlined in the child's individualized education program (**IEP**).

**Jon Peterson Scholarship**-The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program provides scholarships to students who are eligible to attend kindergarten through 12th grade and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) from their district of residence. The amount of each scholarship will be based on the disability identified on the student's IEP and will not exceed \$20,000.

**SEA -State Education Agency** in Ohio is the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

**Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act** is a federal law that protects the civil rights of individuals with disabilities. This law is closely intertwined with IDEIA. Children with disabilities who are not eligible for special education may qualify for accommodations under Section 504 if they meet the 504 eligibility criteria.

**SEO -Special Education Officer** is the person in the school district who oversees Special Education.

**Transition** is the movement from one service location, or program to another. Young children with disabilities transition at age three from early intervention to preschool special education services or to other community settings.

For an adolescent student with a disability, transition becomes a coordinated set of activities. At age fourteen, transition planning is designed to help a student move from school to post-school activities. These activities may include postsecondary education, vocational education, employment, adult services, independent living, or community participation. Transition goals are listed on the student's IEP with the student's participation.

**Universal Design (also called Inclusive Design)** refers to a broad-spectrum of ideas meant to produce buildings, products and environments that are accessible to older people, people without disabilities, and people with disabilities.

**Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** takes the principals from Universal Design and applies them to an educational setting. Instruction takes place in a flexible learning environment that can accommodate the individual learning differences of all students.

**VR Contract Services (formerlyVRP3)** is an agency that provides vocational guidance and consultation services for adults with disabilities. Services may include training, work assessments, job development and job coaching. There are eligibility requirements for enrollment.

**Waiver-** usually refers to the Home and Community-Based Waiver program in the state of Ohio where the state has permission to use funds to assist and keep people with disabilities in the community. Many of the restrictive requirements using Medicaid monies are waived in these programs. There are different types of waivers and services that families may obtain for their child or adult family member. These are services not covered under special education. Please note that there are eligibility requirements and waiting lists in Allen County for waivers. For more information, contact the Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

**WCLA-West Central Learning Academy** is an online public school chartered by the state of Ohio. The school is located in Lima and serves students in grades 7 – 12.

**WCOAC- West Central Ohio Autism Community** is a nonprofit group of family and professional members. WCOAC sponsors a parent support group, family recreational events, educational trainings for parents and professionals and other local collaborative efforts to support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders, their families and the professionals who serve them. Their service area includes Allen, Auglaize, Hardin, Mercer, Shelby and Van Wert counties.



## **CONTACT US**

**If you have any questions or need assistance please feel free to contact our office to request assistance.**

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