WAIT… WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? · PRINTABLE

# Quick Reference Guide

Special education acronyms at a glance. Keep this in your school folder.

| Acronym | Full Name | Simple Meaning |
|---|---|---|
| AAC | Augmentative and Alternative Communication | Tools or methods that support or replace speech |
| ADHD | Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder | A condition affecting attention, activity, and impulse control |
| ASL | American Sign Language | A complete visual language |
| AT | Assistive Technology | Tools that help a student do tasks |
| BIP | Behavior Intervention Plan | A plan to support positive behavior |
| CI | Cochlear Implant | A device that helps send sound to the hearing nerve |
| DD | Developmental Delay | Eligibility category for young children |
| DHH | Deaf and Hard of Hearing | People with any degree of hearing loss |
| ED | Emotional Disturbance | Eligibility category for emotional and behavioral needs |
| ESY | Extended School Year | Services during school breaks, if needed |
| FAPE | Free Appropriate Public Education | Your child's right to an appropriate education at no cost |
| FBA | Functional Behavioral Assessment | Finding out why a behavior happens |
| FIE / FIIE | Full and Individual (Initial) Evaluation | A complete special education evaluation |
| HAT | Hearing Assistive Technology | Devices like remote microphones |
| HI | Hearing Impairment | Eligibility category for hearing loss |
| IDEA | Individuals with Disabilities Education Act | The federal special education law |

# Quick Reference Guide (continued)

| Acronym | Full Name | Simple Meaning |
|---|---|---|
| **IEE** | **Independent Educational Evaluation** | An outside evaluation if you disagree |
| **IEP** | **Individualized Education Program** | Your child's written special education plan |
| **LEA** | **Local Education Agency** | Your school district |
| **LRE** | **Least Restrictive Environment** | Learning with peers as much as appropriate |
| **MDR** | **Manifestation Determination Review** | Checks if behavior is linked to the disability |
| **MTSS** | **Multi-Tiered System of Supports** | Levels of extra help for any student |
| **OHI** | **Other Health Impairment** | Eligibility category for health conditions |
| **OT** | **Occupational Therapy** | Help with fine motor, sensory, and daily skills |
| **PLAAFP** | **Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance** | Where your child is now |
| **PT** | **Physical Therapy** | Help with movement and mobility |
| **PTI** | **Parent Training and Information Center** | Free help for parents in every state |
| **PWN** | **Prior Written Notice** | The school's written explanation of a decision |
| **REED** | **Review of Existing Evaluation Data** | Reviewing what is known before testing |
| **SDI** | **Specially Designed Instruction** | Teaching adapted to your child's needs |
| **SEA** | **State Education Agency** | Your state's department of education |
| **SLD** | **Specific Learning Disability** | Eligibility category for learning differences |
| **SLP** | **Speech-Language Pathologist** | Communication specialist |
| **504** | **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act** | Federal civil rights law; 504 plans give access supports |

Some states use different names for some of these terms. See the ABCs section for full explanations.