



# Helpful Acronyms

**We have compiled a list of acronyms to help you decipher some of the terminology involved in special education advocacy.**

§ -This symbol means “Section” as in “§ 300.7 Child with a disability” in the IDEA regulations

**AAC** – Alternative Augmentative Communication

**ABA** – Applied Behavior Analysis

**ADA** – Americans with Disabilities Act

**ADD** – Attention Deficit Disorder

**ADHD** – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

**ADLs** – Activities of Daily Living

**AER** – Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

**ALLIANCE** – The Alliance- Technical Assistance Alliance for Parent Centers

**AMI** – Alliance for the Mentally Ill

**APE** – Adaptive Physical Education

**ARD** – Admissions, Review, and Dismissal Committee

**ASL** – American Sign Language

**ASD** – Autism Spectrum Disorder

**AT** – Assistive Technology

**ATC** – Assistive Technology Center

**AYP** – Adequate Yearly Progress

**BD** – Behavior Disorder

**BEST** – Behavioral and Educational Strategies for Teachers

**BI** – Brain Injury

**BIA** – Brain Injury Association OR Bureau of Indian Affairs

**BIL** – Bilingual

**BIP** – Behavior Intervention Plan

**BMP** – Behavior Management Plan

**CA** – Chronological Age

**CADRE** – Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education

**CAP** – Client Assistance Program (DLC) OR Corrective Action Plan

**CAPD** – Central Auditory Processing Disorder

**CD** – Communication Disorder

**CEC** – Council for Exceptional Children

**CF** – Cystic Fibrosis  
**CIL** – Centers for Independent Living  
**COE** – Center for Expertise  
**CP** – Cerebral Palsy  
**CSPD** – Comprehensive System of Personnel Department  
**CST** – Child Study Team  
**D** – Deaf  
**DB** – Deafblind  
**DCFS** – Division of Child and Family Services  
**DD** – Developmental Delay  
**DD Act** – Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act  
**DDS** – Division of Disability Determination Services  
**DH** – Department of Health  
**DHS** – Department of Human Services  
**DI** – Direct Instruction  
**DLC** – Disability Law Center  
**DoDDS** – U.S. Department of Defense Dependent Schools  
**DRS** – Division of Rehabilitation Services  
**DS** – Down Syndrome  
**DSBVI** – Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
**DSDHH** – Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

**DSM** – Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders by the American Psychiatric Association  
**DSPD** – Division of Services for People with Disabilities  
**DWS** – Department of Workforce Services  
**EBD** – Emotional and Behavioral Disorders  
**EC** – Early Childhood OR Exceptional Child[ren]  
**ECE** – Early Childhood Education  
**ED** – Emotional Disturbance  
**EDGAR** – Education Department General Administrative Regulations  
**EHA** – Education of the Handicapped Act (now IDEA)  
**EI** – Early Intervention  
**EMH** – Educable Mentally Handicapped  
**EMR** – Educable Mentally Retarded  
**EPSDT** – Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment  
**ESA** – Education Service Agency  
**ESD** – Extended School Day  
**ESEA** – Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
**ESL** – English as a Second Language  
**ESY** – Extended School Year  
**ETP** – Effective Teaching Practices  
**EYS** – Extended Year Services

**FACT** – Families, Agencies and Communities Together

**FAPE** – Free, Appropriate, Public Education

**FASD** – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

**FBA** – Functional Behavioral Assessment/Analysis

**FEOG** – Full Educational Opportunity Goal

**FERPA** – Family Education Rights Privacy Act

**FLSA** – Fair Labor Standards Act

**FOIA** – Freedom of Information Act

**FtoFN** – Family to Family Network, A Program of DHS/DSPD, of which the UPC has a grant

**GAPS** – Guardianship, Advocacy, and Protective Services

**GCPD** – Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities

**GCSSP** – Governor’s Coordination and Special Services Plan

**GE** – General Education

**GT** – Gifted and Talented

**HI** – Hearing Impairment

**HO** – Hearing Officer

**HOH** – Hard of Hearing

**HS** – Head Start OR High School

**IA** – Instruction Assistant

**IAES** – Interim Alternative Education Setting

**IASA** – Improving America’s Schools Act

**ICC** – Interagency Coordinating Council

**ID** – Intellectual Disability

**IDEA ’97** – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; Reauthorized in 1997

**IEE** – Individualized Educational Evaluation

**IDEIA 2004** – Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act; Reauthorized in 2004

**IEP** – Individualized Education Program

**IFSP** – Individualized Family Service Plan

**IHE** – Institution of Higher Education

**IL** – Independent Living

**IPE** – Individualized Plan for Employment

**ITAG** – Individual Technical Assistance Agreement

**ITP** – Individualized Transition Plan

**LA** – Local Affiliate (ADA)

**LCPD** – Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities

**LD** – Learning Disability (sometimes called SLD see below)

**LDA** – Learning Disabilities Association

**LEA** – Local Education Agency

**LEP** – Limited English Proficiency

**LRBI** – Least Restrictive Behavior Intervention

**LRE** – Least Restrictive Environment

**MA** – Mental Age

**MD** – Manifestation Determination OR Multiple Disabilities OR Muscular Dystrophy

**MR** – Mental Retardation

**MH** – Mental Health

**MM** – Mild Moderate

**MMR** – Moderately Mentally Retarded

**MOA** – Interagency Memorandum of Agreement

**MPRRC** – Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center

**NCLB** – No Child Left Behind Act

**NDT** – Neurodevelopmental Treatment

**NEA** – National Education Association

**NPRM** – Notice of Proposed Rule Making

**OCD** – Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

**OCR** – Office of Civil Rights

**ODD** – Oppositional Defiant Disorder

**OHI** – Other Health Impairment

**OI** – Orthopedic Impairment

**O & M** – Orientation and Mobility

**OSEP** – Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education

**OSERS** – Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

**OT** – Occupational Therapy/Therapist

**PALS** – Peer-Assisted Learning System

**PASS** – Plan for Achieving Self-Support

**PBS** – Positive Behavioral Supports

**PCA** – Personal Care Attendant

**PD** – Physical Disability

**PDD** – Pervasive Developmental Disorder

**Perkins Act** – Carl Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act

**PIQ** – Performance I.Q.

**PL** – Public Law

**PLEP** – Present Level of Educational Performance

**PP** – Paraprofessional

**PS** – Preschool

**PT** – Physical Therapy/Therapist

**PTI** – Parent Training and Information

**PWI** – Projects with Industry

**RAD** – Reactive Attachment Disorder

**RS** – Related Services

**RSA** – Rehabilitation Services Administrator

**RTI** – Response to Interview

**SAS** – Supplementary Aids and Services

**SB** – Spina Bifida

**SC** – Service Coordinator

**SE** – Special Education

**SEA** – State Education Agency

**SEAC** – Special Education Advisory Committee

**Section 504** – A part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 making it illegal for any organization receiving federal funds to discriminate against a person solely on the basis of disability

**SED** – Serious Emotional Disturbance

**SI** – Sensory Integration OR Speech Impairment

**SJBT** – Supported Job Based Training

**SIG** – State Improvement Grant

**SIP** – State Improvement Plan

**SLD** – Specific Learning Disability

**S/LI** – Speech/Language Impairment

**S/LP** – Speech/Language Pathologist

**S/PD or S/PH** – Severe/Profound Disability or Handicap

**SPOA** – Specific Power of Attorney

**SPED** – Special Education

**SSA** – Social Security Administration

**SSDI** – Social Security Disability Income

**SSI** – Supplemental Security Income

**SSP** – Supplemental Service Providers

**SST** – Student Study Team

**STO** – Short-Term Objectives

**TA** – Technical Assistance

**TATRA** – Technical Assistance about Transition and the Rehabilitation Act

**TBI** – Traumatic Brain Injury

**TDD** – Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf

**TE** – Transitional Employment

**TS** – Tourette Syndrome

**TTA** – Training and Technical Assistance

**TTY** – Teletypewriter (phone system for the deaf)

**TWWIIA** – Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act

**VI** – Visual Impairment

**Voc Ed** – Vocational Education

**VR** – Vocational Rehabilitation