



Frequently Used Acronyms & Terms for School-Based Practice in Texas

AAC	Augmentative and alternative communication.
ABA	Applied behavioral analysis - the science of human behavior based upon the principles of learning theory to improve socially significant behaviors to a meaningful degree.
ADA	Average daily attendance - refers to the number of students present at a school when attendance is taken --the higher the number the greater the allocation of money to the school.
ADA	The Americans with Disabilities Act. Information about ADA
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (not disability categories under IDEA, but medical diagnoses).
AEM (AIM)	Accessible Educational Materials (also known as Accessible Instructional Materials).
APE	Adapted physical education - an instructional support service provided to students needing adaptations or modifications to grade-level essential elements of PE.
AI	Auditory impairment (a disability category under IDEA and SBOE rules).
ARD	Admission, Review and Dismissal - refers to a process of entering, annually reviewing, or exiting the special education system. In Texas, this term is also used to refer to the annual meeting at which a student's evaluation or progress is reviewed and the individualized education program (IEP) is determined. In other states, this meeting is called the IEP meeting.
ARD Committee	A group of persons, specified by state rule, who must be present to determine the entrance, exit, or annual IEP for a student served under IDEA. In Texas, persons required for the ARD Committee include: the parent(s) of the child; a regular education teacher; the child's special education teacher; a representative of the school district (often a school administrator); others who have a special knowledge or expertise concerning the child (including related services personnel) at the discretion of the school district; someone who can interpret the instructional implications of the evaluation results (can be one of the persons already listed); and, when possible, the child with a disability.
AT	Assistive technology - AT must be considered by the ARD committee when determining the needs of a child who receives special education. By state law, "assistive technology device" means any device, including equipment or a product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of a student with a disability.
AU	Autism (a disability category under IDEA and SBOE rules). The most recent term for the medical diagnosis, as accepted under DSM-V, is autism spectrum disorder.



BIP (also BMP)	Behavior intervention plan or behavior management plan - Developed by the IEP team for any student needing positive behavioral supports.
CBI	Community-based instruction - carryover of curriculum into community settings.
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations.
CHIP	Children's Health Insurance Program.
Content Mastery	An instructional arrangement for a student needing more or different learning opportunities than those provided in the regular classroom.
Commissioner of Education	Appointed by the governor and part of the executive branch. This individual works with the legislature and the publicly elected State Board of Education to develop policy and rules that govern public education in Texas.
Co-Teach	A general education instructional arrangement that includes a special education co-teacher for the entire school day. The special education teacher is responsible for making needed curriculum accommodations and modifications for those students whose IEPs require accommodations and/or modifications.
DARS	Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services - within Texas' Health and Human Services. Texas' Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) agency is part of DARS.
DB	Deaf-Blind (a disability category under IDEA and SBOE rules).
DOE	Department of Education. http://www.ed.gov/
DS	Developmental Services – services provided by an Early Intervention Specialist (a state specialty certification).
Diag	Educational diagnostic specialist--person credentialed in administering the evaluation (called the full and individual initial evaluation) to determine if a student needs special education.
ED	Emotional disturbance (a disability category under IDEA and SBOE rules).
EI	Early intervention programs and services to children ages 0 – 3 years, and their families.
ECI	Texas' Early Childhood Intervention – a system of programs that administer early intervention to children 0 – 3yrs in Texas in compliance with IDEA Part C.
EIS	Early Intervening Services - Services for students in prekindergarten through grade 12 who are not currently identified as needing special education or related services, but who need additional academic and behavioral support to succeed in a general education environment. The purpose of these services is to prevent unnecessary referrals to special education.

ESEA	In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as a part of the "War on Poverty." ESEA emphasizes equal access to education and establishes high standards and accountability. The law authorizes federally funded education programs that are administered by the states. In 2002, Congress amended ESEA and reauthorized it as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).
ESC	Educational service center - refers to the Texas Education Agency regional education service center(s). There are 20 regional education service centers in the state providing training and other resources to school districts. Region 4 ESC serves the Harris County area.
ELL	English language learners – formerly known as LEP (limited English proficiency).
ESY	Extended school year (also known as “summer school”) - provided to students who have exhibited regression or have a reasonable expectation of regression over the summer.
FAPE	Free appropriate public education - an entitlement of all children under IDEA.
FBA	Functional Behavioral Assessment - functional behavioral assessment is generally considered to be a problem-solving process for addressing student problem behavior. It relies on a variety of techniques and strategies to identify the purposes of specific behavior and to help IEP teams select interventions to directly address the problem behavior.
FERPA	Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act - FERPA protects students' and families' rights in school-related matters, including privacy/confidentiality of information. FERPA
FIE	Full and individual initial evaluation - an evaluation done to determine eligibility for special education services under IDEA.
GSC or Generic Class	Generic self-contained, or generic class - refers to a classroom comprised of students with a variety of disabilities that naturally occur on a campus based on its geographic boundaries (as opposed to a class of similarly-disabled students from around the district clustered in one classroom or location, based on their disability or behavioral characteristics).
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.- HIPAA protects health insurance coverage and health information privacy for workers and their families when they change or lose their jobs. Health Information Privacy
ICS	In-class support - A general education instructional arrangement where a special education teacher or paraprofessional comes for specific periods to assist with curriculum modifications for students whose IEPs require modifications.
ID	Intellectual Disability (a disability category under IDEA and SBOE rules). The former term was mental retardation (MR).

IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - federal legislation that ensures that students with a disability are provided with a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) that is tailored to their individual needs. http://idea.ed.gov/
IEE	Independent educational evaluation - an evaluation, usually at parent request, completed by a professional outside the student's campus team.
IEP	Individualized Education Program - An individually-tailored, student-centered written education plan designed to meet the learning needs of a child, ages 3 through 21 years, who is receiving special education.
IFSP	Individualized Family Service Plan - A family-centered written treatment plan that specifies the early intervention services that will be provided to a qualifying child aged 0 to 3 years under IDEA Part C.
LD	Learning Disability (a disability category under IDEA and SBOE rules).
LEA	Local education agency (i.e., an independent school district).
LEP	Limited English proficiency – a prior term, now known as English language learner (ELL).
L.I.F.E. Skills	Learning in Functional Environments - a specific educational program to instruct students needing heightened emphasis on activities of daily living and community-based instruction. The term "LIFE Skills" has, over the years, become a common name for self-contained classrooms, even though the curriculum it is named for is no longer widely used.
LRE	Least restrictive environment - refers to a placement or instructional arrangement for a student with disabilities served under IDEA; mandates services in the least segregated setting possible.
MD	Multiple Disabilities (a disability category under IDEA and SBOE rules).
NCEC	Non-categorical early childhood (a disability category under IDEA and SBOE rules) - A student between the ages of 3-5 who is evaluated as having mental retardation, emotional disturbance, a specific learning disability, or autism may be described as non-categorical early childhood.
NCLB	The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 -- NCLB is a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (1965). It supports standards-based education reform based on the premise that setting high standards and establishing measurable goals can improve individual outcomes in education. No Child Left Behind
OHI	Other health impairment (a disability category under IDEA and SBOE rules) - A student with other health impairment is one who has chronic or acute health problems such as asthma, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, sickle cell anemia, or Tourette's Disorder that adversely affects educational performance.

OI	Orthopedic impairment (a disability category under IDEA and SBOE rules) - OI means a severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes impairments caused by a congenital anomaly, impairments caused by disease (e.g., poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis), and impairments from other causes (e.g., cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures).
O & M	Orientation and Mobility - A related service that is provided to blind or visually impaired children by qualified personnel to enable those students to attain systematic orientation to and safe movement within their environments in school, home, and community.
OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education. OSEP OSEP Ideas that Work
PDD	Pervasive Developmental Disorder - not a disability category under IDEA, but was a medical diagnosis under the DSM-IV. PDD is no longer included as a diagnosis under DSM-V, but falls under the umbrella term, "autism spectrum disorder."
PECS	Picture exchange communication system - functional communication for students with no communication or system of communication.
PEIMS	Public Education Information Management system – Texas' System for data collection and reporting on activities in special education.
PLAAFP	Present level of academic achievement and functional performance - determined by IEP/ARD team.
PPCD	Texas' Preschool Programs for Children with Disabilities (programs in schools for ages 3 - 5yrs).
REED	Review of existing evaluation data - must take place as part of an initial evaluation, if appropriate, and as part of any reevaluation of a child under the IDEA. ARD committee members must review the existing evaluation data about the student to determine the scope of the evaluation. If the REED is part of a reevaluation, members must decide what additional assessment, if any, is needed to decide whether additions or modifications will be made to the student's special education and related services.
Resource	an instructional arrangement for one or more subject areas identified by the ARD committee as appropriate for students requiring special education support to accomplish grade-level essential elements.
Rtl	Response to Intervention - An evidence-based, problem-solving approach to public education that is applicable to <i>all</i> children (regular and special education students). Rtl includes frequent data collection regarding progress in both academic and behavior arenas, and provides for immediate intervention when data shows student progress that is behind expected progress. Rtl first assumes the problem is with instruction, and problem-solving efforts are initially targeted at improving the quality or increasing the intensity of instruction. Although special

education and related service professionals may be part of problem-solving teams at all levels of Rtl, a formal referral for special education is the last option in this approach.

SBOE	State Board of Education--along with the Commissioner of Education, oversees the state public education system. Members of this regulatory body are elected by the public. The board's authority comes from the state legislature.
SEA	State education agency - In Texas, this is the Texas Education Agency, or TEA. http://tea.texas.gov/
Section 504	Section 504 is a federal law that guarantees certain rights to individuals with disabilities and prohibits discrimination against them. It ensures that a child with a disability has equal access to an education. Unlike the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 does not require the school to provide an individualized educational program (IEP). Section 504 FAQs Section 504 Fact Sheet
SHARS	School Health and Related Services program – the Medicaid program districts can access to bill for special education and related services for their Medicaid-eligible students. The services must be specified in the student's IEP. Only services provided directly to the student or in the presence of the student can be reimbursed.
SI	Speech or Language Impairment (a disability category under IDEA and SBOE rules).
SSI	Supplemental Security Income - A United States government program that provides stipends to low-income people who are either aged (65 or older), blind, or disabled.
SSS	Scotopic sensitivity syndrome - A visual perceptual disorder.
STAAR	State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness.
STAAR A	Accommodated version of STAAR with embedded supports designed to help students with disabilities access assessed content. Supports include visual aids, graphic organizers, clarifications of construct-irrelevant terms and text-to speech functionality.
STAAR L	Linguistically accommodated English version of STAAR for grades 3-8 and end of course mathematics, science and social studies assessments. English language learners (ELL) must meet participation requirements for a substantial degree of linguistic accommodation in these subject areas.
STARR Alternate 2	Assessment that meets federal requirements mandated under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Designed by TEA to assess students in grades 3-8 and high school with significant cognitive disabilities who receive special education services.

STAAR-EOC	End of Course State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness - Students not receiving section 504 or special education services are required by Texas Education Code (TEC) §28.025(c) to meet all curriculum requirements and pass all five STAAR end-of-course (EOC) assessments in order to receive a Texas high school diploma.
TAC	Texas Administrative Code – Texas’ laws.
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury (a disability category under IDEA and SBOE rules)
TEA	Texas Education Agency. TEA is responsible for providing resources and quality control to ensure local education agencies implement the state education code passed by the legislature and the rules developed by the Commissioner and/or the SBOE.
TEACCH	Treatment and Education of Autistic and Related Communication Handicapped Children (comprehensive program of structured learning).
TEKS	Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (state mandated education curriculum K-12).
UDL	Universal Design for Learning.
U.S. DOE	United States Department of Education. http://www.ed.gov/
VI	Visual impairment (including blind) - (a disability category under IDEA and SBOE rules).
VR	Vocational rehabilitation.