

- PT** - Physical Therapy
- RDA** - Results-Driven Accountability
- RS** - Related Services
- RTI** - Response to Intervention
 - § - This symbol means "Section" in legal documents
- SAS** - Supplementary Aids and Services
- SB** - Spina Bifida
- SE** - Special Education
- SEA** - State Education Agency
- SEAC** - Special Education Advisory Committee
- Section** - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act 504
- SED** - Serious Emotional Disturbance
 - SI - Sensory Integration
- SLD** - Specific Learning Disability
 - SLI - Speech/Language Impairment
- SLP** - Speech/Language Pathologist
- TBI** - Traumatic Brain Injury
- TDD** - Telecommunications Device for the Deaf
- TIEP** - Transition Individualized Education Program
 - TS - Tourette Syndrome
- TTY** - Teletypewriter (phone system for the deaf)
- TWWIIA** - Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act
 - VI - Visual Impairment
- Voc. Ed.** - Vocational Education
 - VPK - Volunteer Pre-kindergarten Education Program
 - VR - Vocational Rehabilitation
- WIC** - Woman Infant and Children Special Supplemental Nutrition Program

****Editorial Note****

In October 2010, Rosa's Law was signed into law by President Obama. Rosa's Law changed the term to be used in future to "intellectual disability." The definition of the term itself did not change, only the use of "intellectual disability" instead of mental retardation

“Striving For Complete integration and equality of people with disabilities in a society without barriers.”



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A Primer on Special Education Acronyms & Abbreviations



Understanding Alphabet Soup

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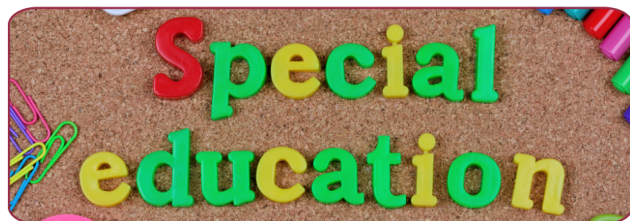
Welcome to Exceptional Student Education (ESE)! As you navigate through the ESE journey, you'll come across a range of acronyms and terminology that might seem daunting at first. Often referred to as "Alphabet Soup," this specialized language may appear foreign but is essentially a shorthand of initials.

These acronyms and initials are commonly used in discussions, with the expectation that everyone understands their meanings. If you're a parent or advocating for yourself and find yourself in a meeting where these terms are used, don't hesitate to ask for clarification.

What does that term mean?

This brochure is intended to help you grasp the most frequently used terminology within the "Alphabet Soup" of special education. Inside, you'll find definitions for these specific educational terms. You can find more information about Special Education terms at www.fndusa.org.

It could be beneficial for you to review the information in this brochure and explore the resources available on our website prior to attending a meeting for your child or yourself.



AAC - Alternative Augmentative Communication
ABA - Applied Behavioral Analysis
ABC - Antecedent, Behavior, Consequence
ADA - American with Disabilities Act
ADD - Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
ADLs - Activities of Daily Living
ADR - Alternative Dispute Resolution
AIM - Accessible Instructional Material
APE - Adaptive Physical Education
APR - Annual Performance Progress
ASD - Autism Spectrum Disorder
ASL - American Sign Language
AT - Assistive Technology
AYP - Adequate Yearly Progress
BEES - Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
BIP - Behavioral Intervention Plan
CAPD - Central Auditory Processing Disorder
CBI - Community Based Instruction
CC - Closed Captioning
CERT - Considerations for Educationally Relevant Services
CF - Cystic Fibrosis
CP - Cerebral Palsy
DB - Deaf-Blind
DD - Developmental Delay
DS - Down syndrome
EBD - Emotional Behavioral Disorder
ESE - Exceptional Student Education
ESOL - English for Speakers of Other Languages
ESY - Extended School Year
FAPE - Free Appropriate Public Education
FBA - Functional Behavioral Assessment
FC - Facilitated Communication
FERPA - Family Educational Rights Privacy Act
GE - General Education
GT - Gifted and Talented
HI - Hearing Impaired
HoH - Hard of Hearing
IA - Instructional Assistant

ID - Intellectual Disabilities*
IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEE - Independent Educational Evaluation
IEP - Individualized Education Program
IFSP - Individualized Family Support Plan
IHE - Institute of Higher Education
LD - Learning Disability
LEA - Local Education Agency
LEP - Limited English Proficiency
LRE - Least Restrictive Environment
MD - Muscular Dystrophy
MD or - Multiple Disabilities or
MH - Multiply Handicapped
MDR - Manifestation Determination
MTSS - Multi-Tiered System of Support
NIMAS - National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard
OCD - Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
ODD - Oppositional Defiant Disorder
OHI - Other Health Impairment
OI - Orthopedic Impairment
OT - Occupational Therapy
PBIS - Positive Behavior Intervention Supports
PD - Physical Disability
PDD - Pervasive Developmental Disorder
PLEP - Present Level of Educational Performance
or PLP - or Present Level of Performance
PP - Para-Professional
PS - Preschool

