

Glossary of Educational Terms and Acronyms

Act 26: The "zero tolerance" law that calls for a mandatory 1 year expulsion for any student who brings a weapon to school or a school sponsored activity. The superintendent of a school district or an administrative director of an area vocational-technical school may recommend modifications of such expulsion requirements on a case-by-case basis.

ADA: American's with Disabilities Act. Prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in places of public accommodation, including public and private schools.

AYP: Adequate Yearly Progress. Schools and school districts must meet this measure of progress or be subject to consequences under NCLB.

BEC: Basic Education Circular. Policy guidance on education issues from PDE.

BIP/BMP: Behavior Intervention Program (sometimes called a Behavior Management Program.) Should be part of a student's education program when behavior impedes learning. May only consist of positive interventions, strategies, and techniques.

Chapter 14: Pennsylvania's state regulations implementing the federal IDEA/IDEIA.

Chapter 15: Pennsylvania's state regulations implementing the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (the regulations are referred to as "Section 504.")

DOC: The Division of Compliance, Monitoring, and Planning within PDE.

ER: Evaluation Report. The report given to parents after the district conducts a MDE to determine if the student is eligible for special education services.

FBA: Functional Behavior Assessment. This should be conducted prior to developing a BIP/BMP for a student.

GED: The Tests of General Educational Development. An alternative way for students to obtain high school equivalency credentials.

IDEA/IDEIA: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (amended to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act in 2004.) The federal law governing eligibility for special education and related services provided to children with disabilities.

IEE: Independent Educational Evaluation. An option for parents who are testing their child for eligibility and/or services pursuant to the IDEA/IDEIA.

IEP: Individualized Education Program. The embodiment of special education and related services provided to a student under IDEA/IDEIA.

LRE: Least Restrictive Environment. Preferred educational placement for students with disabilities under IDEA/IDEIA.

MDE: Multi-disciplinary Evaluation. Full range of evaluations conducted for students suspected of having a disability designed to test all possible areas of impairment.

MDR: Manifestation Determination Review. Must be conducted by IEP Team prior to imposing discipline on a student with disabilities. Purpose is to determine whether problem behavior was related to the disability and student should therefore not be punished.

NCLB: The No Child Left Behind Act. Requires statewide testing geared to state's academic standards and designed to eliminate or at least reduce educational gaps between groups of students including students with disabilities, low-income students, minority students, and English language learners. District and school consequences for failure to make AYP.

OCR: Office for Civil Rights. Office within the USDOE that investigates discrimination complaints.

ODR: Office for Dispute Resolution. Office in Pennsylvania that sets up mediation sessions and due process hearings for students with disabilities per parent and school district requests.

PASA: Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment. Statewide test for students who cannot take the PSSA due to severe cognitive limitations.

PaTTAN: Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network. Provides educators, parents, and agencies involved in special education with a statewide network of technical assistance.

PDE: Pennsylvania Department of Education. State agency responsible for overseeing the provision of education and educational services to all children within the state.

PHC: Pre-hearing Conference. A procedural protection available to parents of children with disabilities as an option to resolve educational disputes.

PSSA: Pennsylvania System of School Assessment. Statewide test measuring student proficiency on state academic standards.

SAP: Student Assistance Program. Vehicle through which districts provide appropriate counseling and support services to students who experience problems related to the use of drugs, alcohol, and dangerous controlled substances.

Service Agreement (504 Plan): Plan adopted for students who are eligible for accommodations due to disability under Chapter 15 and the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (the regulations are referred to as "Section 504.")

USDOE: United States Department of Education. Federal agency responsible for overseeing the provision of education and educational services to all children within the United States.