



Key Special Education Acronyms

INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY

- Who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.
- Whose impairment constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment.
- Who can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from the provision of vocational rehabilitation services?

LEARNING DISABILITY

A learning disability is a processing disorder that affects listening, thinking, speaking, reading, writing, or math, and is not caused mainly by physical, mental, emotional, or environmental factors.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Specially designed instruction, free to parents, that meets the unique needs of a child with a disability and can take place in classrooms, homes, hospitals, or other settings.

FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT

Problem-solving process for addressing student problem behavior that uses techniques to identify what triggers a given behavior(s) and select interventions that address them.

FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION (FAPE)

IDEA requires that all children with disabilities receive special education and related services at no cost to families.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (IDEA)

These are federal regulations that govern special education, Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), and transition services.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)

An IEP is a written plan for a child with disabilities. It explains the child's needs, sets yearly goals, and lists the services and supports the child will receive. The plan is reviewed each year, and starting at age 16, it also includes planning for life after high school.

IEP TEAM

A multidisciplinary team, including the student and parents, that reviews evaluations and recommends special education programs and services for students with disabilities.

SECTION 504

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 includes anti-discrimination rules that apply to all programs receiving federal funding.

INCLUSION

Inclusion is the active participation of people with disabilities in all areas of society. The presence of people with disabilities does not count as inclusion unless they are valued, contributing members who feel a sense of belonging.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

A law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in jobs, schools, transportation, and public places, and accommodations.



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