Special Education Terms and Acronyms

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act
ADD - Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
ADR - Alternative Dispute Resolution
APD - Auditory Processing Disorder
APE - Adaptive Physical Education
APR - Annual Performance Report
ASD - Autism Spectrum Disorder
ASL - American Sign Language
AT - Assistive Technology
AYP - Adequate Yearly Progress

BIP - Behavioral Intervention Plan
CAP - Corrective Action Plan
CAPD - Central Auditory Processing Disorder
CFR - Code of Federal Regulations
CSA - Comprehensive Services Act
CSB - Community Services Board

DB - Deaf-Blindness
DBVI - Virginia Department of Blind and Visually Impaired
DD - Developmental Delay
DSM-V - Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth edition

ED - Emotional Disability
EDGAR - Education Department General Administrative Regulations
EHA - Education of the Handicapped Act
EOC - End of Course
ERS - Early Resolution System
ESL - English as a Second Language
ESY - Extended School Year

FAPE - Free Appropriate Public Education
FAPT - Family Assessment Planning Team
FBA - Functional Behavioral Assessment
FERPA - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
FOIA - Freedom of Information Act
HI - Hearing Impairment
HIPAA - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996
HOH - Hard of Hearing

IAES - Interim Alternative Education Setting
ID – Intellectual Disability
IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IDEIA - Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act of 2004 (otherwise called IDEA)
IDELR - Individuals with Disabilities Education Law Reporter
IEE - Independent Educational Evaluation
IEP - Individualized Education Program
IFSP - Individual Family Service Plan
IHO - Impartial Hearing Officer
IQ - Intelligence Quotient
ISP - Individual Services Plan

LAC - Local Advisory Committee (otherwise called SEAC)
LEA - Local Educational Agency (School division or SOP)
LEP - Limited English Proficiency
LOF - Letter of Findings
LRE - Least Restrictive Environment

MD - Multiple Disabled
MDR - Manifestation Determination Review
NCLB - No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
NIMAC - National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center
NIMAS - National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center
NLD - NVLD Non-verbal Learning Disability
O&M - Orientation and Mobility Services
OCD - Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
OCR - Office for Civil Rights (at USED)
ODD - Oppositional Defiant Disorder
ODRAS - Office of Dispute Resolution and Administrative Services (at VDOE)
OHI - Other Health Impaired
OI - Orthopedic Impairment
OSEP - Office of Special Education Programs (at USED)
OSERS - Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (at USED)
OT - Occupational Therapy
PBIS - Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
PDD - Pervasive Developmental Disorder
PE - Physical Education
PLOP - Present Level of Performance
PRC - Parent Resource Center
PSD - Procedural Safeguards Document
PT - Physical Therapy
PTSD - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
PWN - Prior Written Notice
RTI - Response to Intervention
SD - Severe Disability
SEA - State Educational Agency (otherwise called VDOE)
SEAC - Special Education Advisory Committee (otherwise called LAC)
SED - Serious Emotional Disturbance
SI - Sensory Integration
SLD - Specific Learning Disability
SLI - Speech Language Impairment
SOL - Standards of Learning Test
SOP - State-Operated Program
SP/L - S/L Speech/Language
SPED - Special Education
SPP - State Performance Plan
SSEAC - State Special Education Advisory Committee
STO - Short-term Objective
T/TAC - Training /Technical Assistance Center
TBI - Traumatic Brain Injury
USC - United States Code
USED - United States Department of Education
VAAP - Virginia Alternative Assessment Program
VAC - Virginia Administrative Code
VDOE - Virginia Department of Education
VGLA - Virginia Grade Level Alternative Program
VI - Visual Impairment
VR - Vocational Rehabilitation Services
VSPB - Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton or the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind, and Multi-Disabled at Hampton

The Terms and Acronyms were gathered from the Virginia Department of Education’s Parent’s Guide to Special Education (2010).

The contents of this factsheet were developed under a grant from the Virginia Department of Education, #H027A190107 and the US Department of Education, #H328M140013-18. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer.