



New York State  
School Boards  
Association

**2017**  
**Common Education Terminology**  
**and Acronyms**

**Academic Intervention Services (AIS)** – Services required of the school district to provide extra help to students who are not yet meeting state learning standards.

**Accountability** – Requiring school districts and states to ensure that schools meet their goals/standards.

**Alternative assessment** – Any testing instrument other than standardized, multiple-choice questions, such as short-answer response and extended response, observation, individual or group performance assessment, and portfolios.

**Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR)** – An annual evaluation of teachers and principals that school boards and Boards of Cooperative Education (BOCES) must conduct, in accordance with law and the commissioner’s regulations. In addition, each school board and BOCES must adopt an APPR plan to be filed in the district or BOCES office and made available for public review by September 10 of each year.

**Appropriation** – An authorization from the board of education or voters to make expenditures and to incur monetary obligations for specific purposes.

**Assessed valuation** – The monetary worth of all property in the district as determined by the municipal assessor.

**Average daily attendance** – The aggregate days of attendance during a given reporting period divided by the number of days school is in session during that period.

**Basic Education Data System (BEDS)** – The State Education Department’s system for collecting basic information on all the state’s elementary and secondary schools.

**Block grants** – Federal or state funding distributed in a lump sum directly to states or localities to administer and direct programs.

**Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)** – are formed by a voluntary cooperative association of school districts in a geographical area that band together to provide services, such as special education and vocational programs, to their component local school districts.

**BOCES aid** – State funds to reimburse a district for part of the cost of BOCES services.

**Categorical aid** – State or federal aid which is intended to finance or reimburse a specific category of instructional or supporting program or to aid a particular target group of pupils.

**Charter school** – An “independent and autonomous public school” established under state charter school law, eligible for funding from both private and public local, state and federal monies.

**Commissioner of Education** – The chief executive officer of the Board of Regents and the State Education Department appointed by the Board of Regents to enforce laws and policies relating to the state education system.

**Common Core Learning Standards** – A set of national standards that define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers in order to graduate high school, succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and do well in workforce training programs.

**Contingency budget** – The budget adopted by the board of education after a proposed budget or budget revote is defeated.

**Cooperative Service application (Co-Ser)** – A BOCES request to the commissioner of education for approval to operate a service.

**Core curriculum** – The body of knowledge that all students are expected to learn.



**Data-driven decision making** – Analyzing varied forms of data to identify educational strengths and/or weaknesses to plan for and implement improvements in student achievement as well as monitoring trends, and using this information to make decisions about the effectiveness of continuation or changes in district practices, curriculum, programs, procedures and policies.

**Demographic data** – Information describing the students and citizens of a school district; usually includes characteristics such as race, age, gender, income, educational level, birth rate, and profession.

**Distance learning** – A mode of delivering education and instruction via the internet without a student physically attending the class.

**Education policy** – Governing principles that serve as guidelines or rules for decision making and action in setting and achieving educational objectives.

**Equalization rate** – The percentage of full value at which taxable real property in a county, city, town or village is assessed as determined by the New York State Board of Real Property Services.

**Executive session** – A portion of the school board meeting that is not open to the public.

**Foundation aid** – A state aid formula which provides that the majority of school aid is distributed by a clear and predictable stream of funding.

**Freedom of Information Law (FOIL)** – A law that gives the public access to government records, as a way to foster increased understanding of and participation in government. The law provides procedures for requests and a list of the kinds of records that are exempted.

**Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)** – sets the accounting rules for all governmental entities, including school districts

**Inclusion** – Educating students with disabilities as appropriate in a regular classroom setting along with students without disabilities.

**Individualized Education Program (IEP)** – A written statement outlining the plan for providing an educational program for a disabled student based on the unique needs of that student.

**Magnet school** – A school that offers enriched curriculum in one or more subject areas; sometimes used as a means of desegregation.

**New York State Learning standards** – The level of knowledge, skills and understanding that students should be able to demonstrate over time as a result of instruction or experience. There are two types of standards, according to the State Education Department: content standards (what children should know, understand and be able to do as a result of their schooling) and performance standards (acceptable levels of student achievement).

**Open Meetings Law** – A law that governs the conduct of board of education meetings. Part of New York's Sunshine Laws; see also Freedom of Information Law.

**Performance-based assessment** – Tests which measure students' abilities to perform tasks and solve problems rather than choosing answers from a number of possibilities.

**Property Tax Cap** – The tax cap limits a local government's (including school districts) overall growth in the property tax levy to 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less.

**Response to Intervention (RTI)** – A method of academic intervention that is designed to provide effective assistance to children who are having difficulty learning through early intervention, frequent progress measurement, and increasingly intensive research-based instructional interventions for children who continue to have difficulty.



**Student growth model** – An accountability system that tracks student performance over time.

**Tenure** – Guaranteed job security, granted by state law to teachers after satisfactory probationary service, which cannot be rescinded except for cause.

**Title I** – A federal aid program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to provide schools with a high percentage of low income families with additional funds to improve academic achievement.

**Triborough Amendment** – An amendment to the Taylor Law, part of the Civil Service Law, that requires the terms of an expired collective bargaining agreement to remain in effect until a new one is negotiated.

**Voucher** – A way to allocate and distribute education money directly to parents to pay for their children's education in a public or private school.

**Wicks Law** – A section of the General Municipal Law that requires school districts to award separate contracts for plumbing, heating/air/ventilation and electrical work.

## Common Acronyms

**AASA** – American Association of School Administrators

**ADA** – Americans with Disabilities Act;  
Average daily attendance

**ADD/ADHD** – Attention deficit disorder/  
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

**AED** – Automated external defibrillators

**AGE** – Average grade enrollment

**AIS** – Academic Intervention Services

**AP Program** – Advanced Placement program

**APPR** – Annual professional performance review

**BEDS** – Basic educational data system

**BOCES** – Boards of Cooperative Educational Services

**CDOS** – Career development and occupational studies

**CIPA** – Children’s Internet Protection Act

**CPSE** – Committee on Preschool Special Education

**CRT** – Criterion-referenced test

**CSD** – Central School District

**CSE** – Committee on special education

**CTE** – Career and technical education

**DASA** – Dignity for All Students Act

**DARE** – Drug abuse resistance education

**ECB** – Educational Conference Board

**ELA** – English language arts

**ELL** – English language learners

**ERS** – Employees’ Retirement System

**ESEA** – Elementary and Secondary Education Act

**ESL** – English as a Second Language

**ESSA** – Every Student Succeeds Act

**FERPA** – Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

**FTE** – Full-time equivalent

**GAO** – General Accounting Office

**GAAP** – Generally accepted accounting principles

**GASB** – Governmental Accounting Standards Board

**HSE** – High School Equivalency Diploma

**IDA** – Industrial development agency

**IDEA** – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

**IEP** – Individualized education program

**LEP** – Limited English proficiency

**NAEP** – National Assessment of Educational Progress

**NCLB** – No Child Left Behind Act

**NSBA** – National School Boards Association

**NYCOM** – New York State Conference of Mayors & Other Municipal Officials



**NYCRR** – New York Code of Rules and Regulations

**NYSASBO** – New York State Association of School Business Officials

**NYSAA** – New York State Alternate Assessment

**NYSAP** – New York State Assessment Program

**NYSASA** – New York State Association of School Attorneys

**NYSAWA** – New York State Association of Women in Administration

**NYSCOSS** – New York State Council of School Superintendents; The Council (preferred)

**NYSED** – New York State Education Department

**NYSGFOA** – New York State Government Finance Officers Association

**NYSMSA** – New York State Middle Schools Association

**NYSSBA** – New York State School Boards Association

**NYSSMA** – New York State School Music Association

**NYSTCS** – New York State Teacher Certification Examination Program

**NYSUT** – New York State United Teachers

**PAC** – Political action committee

**PERB** – Public Employment Relations Board

**PILOT** – Payment in lieu of taxes

**PINS** – Persons in need of supervision

**PLA** – Project labor agreement

**Project SAVE** – Safe Schools Against Violence in Education

**RCT** – Regents competency test

**SAANYS** – School Administrators Association of New York State

**SARA** – State Archives & Records Administration

**SAT** – Standardized assessment test

**SASS** – System of Accountability of Student Success

**STAR** – School tax relief program

**STEM** – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

**STW** – School-to-Work

**UFSD** – Union Free School District

**UPK** – Universal prekindergarten

**YRE** – Year-Round Education

