



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	ELL – English language learners
ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act; Average daily attendance	ERS – Employees’ Retirement System
ADD/ADHD – Attention deficit disorder/ Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	ESEA – Elementary and Secondary Education Act
AED – Automated external defibrillators	ESL – English as a Second Language
AGE – Average grade enrollment	ESSA – Every Student Succeeds Act
AIS – Academic Intervention Services	FERPA – Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
AP Program – Advanced Placement program	FTE – Full-time equivalent
APPR – Annual professional performance review	GAO – General Accounting Office
BEDS – Basic educational data system	GAAP – Generally accepted accounting principles
BOCES – Boards of Cooperative Educational Services	GASB – Governmental Accounting Standards Board
CDOS – Career development and occupational studies	HSE – High School Equivalency Diploma
CIPA – Children’s Internet Protection Act	IDA – Industrial development agency
CPSE – Committee on Preschool Special Education	IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
CRT – Criterion-referenced test	IEP – Individualized education program
CSD – Central School District	LEP – Limited English proficiency
CSE – Committee on special education	NAEP – National Assessment of Educational Progress
CTE – Career and technical education	NCLB – No Child Left Behind Act
DASA – Dignity for All Students Act	NSBA – National School Boards Association
DARE – Drug abuse resistance education	NYCOM – New York State Conference of Mayors & Other Municipal Officials
ECB – Educational Conference Board	
ELA – English language arts	



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