

SPECIAL EDUCATION TERMS

To help you understand words and terms commonly used in special education, the following key phrases have been highlighted throughout this guide.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICE: A piece of equipment or product which is used to increase, maintain or improve the way a child with a disability interacts and communicates with the world around them.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES: Services to help a child with a disability use an assistive technology device. These services include evaluating the needs of the child; providing the device; and then training the child, the child's family and the professionals who work with that child in the use of the device.

CHAPTER 14: The state law pertaining to the delivery of special education services and programs. It is called a regulation or sometimes called a rule.

CHILD WITH A DISABILITY: A child evaluated as having mental retardation, a hearing impairment including deafness, a speech or language impairment, a visual impairment including blindness, emotional disturbance, an orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, another health impairment, a specific learning disability, deaf-blindness, or multiple disabilities, and who as a result of the disability needs special education and related services.

DUE PROCESS: The procedures that parents can use to disagree with the decisions of school district officials concerning special education. The parent is informed of this right by written notice, which describes the options of a pre-hearing conference, a formal hearing, and appeals.

EVALUATION: The process used to determine if a child has a disability and if special education is needed. The evaluation looks at how the child learns, the kinds of instruction that would be successful and the kinds of instruction that have been tried and have not resulted in success.

EVALUATION REPORT (ER): The report that is compiled and written by the evaluation team (which includes parents) following an evaluation. It contains all of the information gathered from the team members, including the results of assessment. From the report, the evaluation team determines the student's eligibility and need for special education programs.

EVALUATION TEAM: A team of educators, other professional individuals, and the child's parents that reviews all formal testing of a child and all other evaluation material. The evaluation team must issue a written report stating if the child is a child with a disability who needs special education and making suggestions about the programs and services needed.

FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION (FAPE): A program of education and related services for a child with a disability that is designed to meet the child's special education needs and which allows the child to make meaningful progress in the educational setting. It is provided without charge to parents.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA): The federal law which governs the provision of special education services and the rights of parents of a child with a disability.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP): The plan written by the IEP team (including parents) that specifically describes the programs and services necessary for a free appropriate public education for the child with a disability.

NOTICE OF RECOMMENDED EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT (NOREP): The form issued to parents to inform them of the placement recommended by the IEP team.

RELATED SERVICES: Services necessary to provide specially designed instruction to ensure the child benefits from the special education programs. Examples are special transportation, counseling, school health services and physical therapy.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: An educational program individually designed to meet the unique education professional is directly involved as either a consultant or a provider of services.

SPECIALLY DESIGNED INSTRUCTION: Adapting the content, methods or delivery of the instruction as in appropriate based on the unique needs of the child with a disability.

TRANSITION SERVICES: Specific planning in school that helps to prepare students with disabilities to participate more effectively in higher education or job training, community participation, independent living, continuing and adult education, and employment when they leave school

GIFTED EDUCATION TERMS

CHAPTERS 14 AND 342: Regulations and rules regarding students with disabilities in Pennsylvania.

CHAPTER 16: Regulations and rules regarding gifted students in Pennsylvania.

GIFTED MULTIDISCIPLINARY EVALUATION (GMDE): The evaluation process used to gather information that assists in determining if a child is mentally gifted according to the state definition and in need of special education. The evaluation should look at information relevant to the student's suspected giftedness including academic functioning, learning strengths, and educational needs.

GIFTED MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM (GMDT): A team of educators, other professional individuals, and the child's parents that reviews all formal testing of a child and all other evaluation material. The GMDT must issue a written report recommending whether the child is gifted and making suggestions about the programs and services needed.

GIFTED STUDENT: A student who is exceptional because the student meets the definition of "mentally gifted" and needs specially designed instruction beyond that required in regular education.

GIFTED WRITTEN REPORT (GWR): The report that is compiled and written by the gifted multidisciplinary evaluation team (which includes parents) following a multidisciplinary evaluation. It contains all of the information gathered by various team members, as well as the results of assessment. It makes recommendations to the GIEP team regarding eligibility for gifted programs.

MENTALLY GIFTED: Outstanding intellectual and creative ability the development of which requires specially designed programs or support services, or both, not ordinarily provided in the regular education program.

SPECIALLY DESIGNED INSTRUCTION: Adaptations or modifications to the general curriculum, instruction, instructional environments, methods, materials, or a specialized curriculum for students who are gifted.