



Special Education Terminology & Acronyms

504	Section 504- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal law that protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on their disability. Section 504 forbids organizations and employers from excluding or denying individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to receive program benefits and services. It defines the rights of individuals with disabilities to participate in and access program benefits and services.
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act- A civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability in the areas of employment; access to services, programs, and activities provided by State and Federal government; and requires accessibility to all new construction and modifications to existing structures.
AAC	Augmentative Alternative Communication- Any means in which a person communicates other than spoken language. Examples include sign language, written communication, picture-symbol communication systems, and communication devices with voice output, such as Big Mac, Cheap Talk, DynaVox, and Vanguard.
ADL	Activities of Daily Living- Activities related to personal care. They include bathing or showering, dressing, getting in and out of bed or a chair, walking, using the toilet, and eating.
AP	Assessment Plan- A document that outlines the assessment tools and methods used to determine eligibility for special education services as well as present levels of performance, the types of measurements used to collect this information, and the assessor(s) responsible for the collection/review of the data. Assessments will be composed of data from multiple sources and require a multidisciplinary team of specialists to gather and interpret the results.
APE	Adapted Physical Education- A special education program for students who require specialized physical education instruction that cannot be provided in a regular or modified physical education class.
AT	Assistive Technology- Refers to any item, piece of equipment, product, or system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized; that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of students with disabilities. AT may be used for access to the curriculum or augmentative communication.

AUT	Autism- A developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and non-verbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age three, which adversely affects educational performance. Other characteristics often associated with autism include engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines, and unusual responses to sensory experiences.
BCBA	Board Certified Behavior Analyst- A graduate-level certification in behavior analysis. Professionals certified at the BCBA level are independent practitioners who provide behavior-analytic services. BCBAs may supervise the work of Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBAs), Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs), and other professionals who implement behavior-analytic interventions.
BIP	Behavior Intervention Plan- A plan based on a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) and developed by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team.
CAC	Community Advisory Committee- An advisory committee composed of parents of persons with disabilities enrolled in public or non-public schools within the Lake County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). It may include pupils and adults with disabilities, general education and/or special education teachers, and other school personnel.
CBI	Community Based Instruction- Instruction in the skills needed to function in community settings. Instruction takes place both in the community and the classroom.
COE	County Office of Education- The agency that provides, in general, educational programs for certain students; business, administrative, and curriculum services to school districts; and financial oversight of districts. The Lake County Office of Education serves as the COE for Lake County, and the Administrative Unit for the Lake County SELPA.
COP	Change of Placement- A change in program to a less/more restrictive environment because of insufficient/sufficient progress in the current program.
CP	Cerebral Palsy- A disability caused by damage to centers of the brain during or after birth resulting in imperfect control of the muscles and marked by muscular incoordination, spastic paralysis, and speech disturbances.

- CCS** **California Children's Services-** Government-funded agency that provides Occupational and Physical Therapy services and durable medical equipment for the home environment to children with eligible disabilities.
- D/BL** **Deaf/Blindness-** Simultaneous hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness.
- DEAF** **Deafness-** A hearing impairment so severe that a child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.
- DD** **Developmentally Disabled-** Persons with severe chronic conditions that are due to mental and/or physical impairments and cause problems with major life activities such as language, mobility, learning, self-help, and independent living. Developmental disabilities begin anytime during development up to 22 years of age and usually last throughout a person's lifetime.
- DHH** **Deaf/Hard of Hearing-** An individual who has hearing loss, aided or unaided, that impacts the processing of linguistic information and adversely affects performance in the educational environment.
- DTT** **Discrete Trial Training-** Specific teaching strategy used to teach isolated skills. Found to be very effective with children with autism.
- ED** **Emotional Disability-** A condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics, over a long period of time and to a marked degree, that adversely affects educational performance: (A) An inability to learn which cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors; (B) An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers; (C) Inappropriate types of behavior or feeling under normal circumstances; (D) A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression; or (E) A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.
- ED. RIGHTS** **Educational Rights Holder-** A court-appointed educational rights holder is responsible for protecting the child's rights and interests with respect to educational or developmental services, including any special education

and related services. This individual is most commonly the biological parent.

- ELL** **English Language Learners-** Students who have been identified as speaking a language other than English at home.
- EMD** **Established Medical Disability-** A disabling medical condition or congenital syndrome that the individualized education program (IEP) team determines has a high predictability of requiring special education and services. (CA Ed Code, Section 56441.11(d)) (Note: This eligibility category is only applicable for children ages 3-5).
- EO** **English Only-** Designation under English Language Learners (ELL) for students who do not speak a language other than English.
- ERMHS** **Educationally Related Mental Health Services-** A range of support services provided to and/or on behalf of a student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). If deemed necessary following a targeted assessment, the purpose of these services is to allow a student with mental health needs to access and benefit from his or her education. While private counseling may address a wide variety of mental health needs, ERMHS are intended to specifically support skills required for the student to access the educational environment.
- ESN** **Extensive Support Needs-** Services that include providing specially designed instruction to access grade-level California Content Standards in the Least Restrictive Environment. The education specialist provides intensive instruction and support in two or more of the following domains: academics, communication, gross/fine motor, social-emotional, behavioral, vocational, and adaptive/daily living skills. The supports also often include health, movement, and sensory support. Extensive Support Needs practices usually include a lower student-to-educator ratio.
- ESY** **Extended School Year-** Special education services in excess of the regular academic year, occurring between the end of the regular academic year and the beginning of the following academic year, and is included in the student's annual individualized education program.
- FBA** **Functional Behavior Assessment-** The process of gathering and analyzing information about the Student's behavior and accompanying circumstances to determine the purpose or intent of the actions; designed to help identify positive and appropriate interventions to reduce and replace the undesirable behavior.

- FAPE** **Free Appropriate Public Education-** It is in accordance with Federal law that a free and appropriate public education is available to all children residing in a school district between the ages of 3-21 inclusive, including children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school. Appropriate education is the combination of education and related service(s) as determined on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that meets the unique needs of each individual to benefit from his/her access to education opportunities.
- FEP** **Fluent English Proficient-** Designation under English Language Learner (ELL) for students who have acquired English Skills and are fluent English speakers.
- GATE** **Gifted and Talented Education-** Program designed to meet the unique needs of gifted and talented students. Students must be assessed to meet eligibility for this program.
- HH/HI** **Hard of Hearing/Hearing Impairment-** An impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child's educational performance
- ID** **Intellectual Disability-** Means significantly subaverage general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior, and manifested during the developmental period, that adversely affects a child's educational performance. (34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Sec. 300.8(c)(6)).
- IDEA** **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-** Federal legislation that mandates procedures for the provision of free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE). The IDEA was reauthorized with new provisions in 2004.
- IAES** **Interim Alternative Education Setting-** A temporary educational setting for students with disabilities that allows them to continue receiving educational services and participate in the general education curriculum. The child is typically placed in an IAES for up to 45 school days. The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team or a hearing officer determines the setting.
- IEE** **Independent Educational Evaluation-** A private evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not employed by the local education agency, at the expense of the local education agency or the SELPA.

IEP	Individualized Education Program- A written plan, completed annually, prepared at an IEP meeting that includes the student's present level of performance, eligibility for special education, annual goals and objectives (benchmarks), instructional setting, and for interaction/inclusion with non-handicapped peers.
IFSP	Individualized Family Support Plan- A written plan providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers and their families who have been determined to be eligible for early intervention services.
ISP	Individual Services Plan- A plan developed by the Local Education Agency (LEA) and implemented by the SELPA if it is determined that a parentally placed private school child is eligible for special education services.
ITP	Individual Transition Plan- A plan developed for students beginning at age 15 (or younger, if appropriate) and updated annually. It includes a statement of the student's transition service needs related to the IEP, focusing on the future, such as participation in vocational programs or advanced placement courses. Please note that a transition plan is required if the student is 15 or entering high school during the implementation of the current annual IEP.
IWUA	Individual With Unique Abilities (not necessarily used as an acronym)
LEA	Local Education Agency- A school LEA or county office of education, which provides special education and related services.
LEP	Limited English Proficient Student- A student identified through formal initial identification process as not having sufficient fluency in English.
LFRC	Lake Family Resource Center- Provides services in child and youth development, parenting education and personal development, family and community violence prevention, intervention, and treatment, and health & wellness.
LI	Low Incidence Disability- A federal funding category for students whose primary handicapping condition is hearing impairment, visual impairment, or severe orthopedic impairment or any combination of these.
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment- The educational environment in which the student receives educational benefit with the least amount of restriction or assistance. Refers to the goal of educating special education students with general education students to the maximum extent possible.

- MD** **Multiple Disabilities-** Simultaneous impairments (such as intellectual disability-blindness, intellectual disability-orthopedic impairment, etc.) the combination of which causes such severe educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for one of the impairments. The term does not include deaf-blind children. (34 CFR Sec. 300.8(c)(7)).
- MTSS** **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support-** An integrated, comprehensive framework that focuses on Common Core State Standards (CCSS), core instruction, differentiated learning, student-centered learning, individualized student needs, and the alignment of systems necessary for all students' academic, behavioral, and social success.
- MTU** **Medical Treatment Unit-** Outpatient clinics located in designated public schools.
- NPA** **Nonpublic Agency-** A private, nonsectarian group or individual that provides related services. It may be recommended for a student through the IEP process, when the student needs an intensive level of service that is not available through the public education system.
- NPS** **Nonpublic School-** A private, nonsectarian school that enrolls students with disabilities as identified on the IEP. The California Dept. of Education (CDE) must certify the nonpublic schools included within this provision.
- OT** **Occupational Therapy-** A related service to help the functional development of a child (usually in the area of fine motor or sensory integration).
- OI** **Orthopedic Impairment-** Students with specific orthopedic or health problems, which adversely affect their educational performance. These disabilities include, but are not limited to, congenital anomalies, cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures.
- OHI** **Other Health Impairment-** Having limited strength, vitality, or alertness, due to chronic or acute health problems such as a heart condition, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever, asthma, etc., which adversely affects a child's educational performance.

PECS	Picture Exchange Communication System- A commercially sold picture-based communication system for students with limited or no verbal language.
PT	Physical Therapy- Service recommended by a Physical Therapist who has assessed the student as requiring therapy for large muscle groups. PT is provided primarily to address mobility and ambulation needs.
PWN	Prior Written Notice- A document that is required following the proposal and/or refusal related to the initiation or change in the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or offer of FAPE (34 CFR 500.503).
RCRC	Redwood Coast Regional Center- Provides intake, assessment, diagnosis, and coordinates community-based services for over 10,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities in Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino counties. We work in partnership with many individuals, family members, community leaders, and agencies to help the people we serve live quality, independent lives in our region.
RCS	Redwood Community Services- A community-driven organization with a vision for a vibrant, healthy, compassionate community where people feel seen, heard, and valued.
RSP	Resource Specialist Program- A program/service provided for students with disabilities, who are usually fully included in general education classes, by a specially credentialed Resource Specialist teacher.
SDC	Special Day Class- A special education class, taught by a specially credentialed teacher, for students who benefit from enrollment in special education for a majority of the school day.
SELPA	Special Education Local Plan Area- The service area covered by a special education local plan, and is the governance structure created under the California Education Code.
SLD	Specific Learning Disabilities- A disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations. The term does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor handicaps, of intellectual disability, of emotional disability, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.

SLI	Speech and Language Impairment- A communication disorder such as stuttering, impaired articulation, language impairment, or a voice impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance.
SLP	Speech and Language Pathologist- A provider who works to prevent, assess, identify, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults.
SP	Service Plan- A plan paid for by the local school district for students with disabilities who attend private schools. A service plan does not have to ensure a child is provided with FAPE. A service plan spells out the special education and related services the LEA will <i>make available</i> to a child.
SPED	Special Education- Term meaning specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a student with a disability, including: instruction conducted in the classroom, in the home, in hospitals & institutions, and in other settings; as well as instruction in physical education.
SST	Student Study Team/Student Success Team- A school site team that is a function of general education. The team uses a systematic problem-solving approach to assist students who are not succeeding in their current placement. The team develops strategies and organizes resources while providing a system of accountability. The process may result in a referral to the Student Appraisal Team and/or Special Education assessment.
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury- An acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical event resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment that adversely affects performance.
VI	Visually Impaired- A visual impairment that, even with correction, adversely affects a student's educational performance. These terms include both partial sightedness and blindness.
Visual	Visual Supports- Refers to using a visual item, such as an object, photograph, sign or picture, to communicate. Visual supports aid and enhance communication. They provide children and adults with speech, language and communication needs with an alternative mode of communication.
WNL	Within Normal Limits- Means that the screening was normal for that particular disorder and no additional follow-up is required.



LAKE COUNTY SELPA

Special Education Local Plan Area
Lake County Office of Education