



Educational Acronyms to Know

GENERAL EDUCATION ACRONYMS

ADA (Average Daily Attendance)

The number of students attending school on an average day. School districts receive funding based on ADA calculations.

AEIS (Academic Excellence Indicator System)

A system that pulls together a wide range of information on the performance of students in each school and district in Texas every year. This information is put into the annual AEIS reports, which are released each fall.

ARD (Admission, Review, and Dismissal)

An ARD committee makes an initial assessment about a student's eligibility for special education services and continues to make most of the major decisions about that student's individualized educational program. If an ARD committee is formed for your child, you will be a member of that committee.

CCLC (21st Century Community Learning Centers)

A federally funded out-of-school time initiative that serves as a supplementary program to complement regular academic programs. This program is designed to enhance local reform efforts by assisting students in meeting academic standards in the core subjects. Also known as Texas Afterschool Centers on Education, or Texas ACE, the program serves students and their families by offering an array of academic assistance, enrichment, family and parental support services, and college and workforce readiness activities.

CIS (Communities In Schools)

A stay-in-school program sponsored by the Texas Legislature. CIS uses a case management model to prevent dropouts, help students stay in school, learn successfully, and prepare for life

DAEP (Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs)

An educational and self-discipline alternative instructional program, adopted by local policy, for students in elementary through high school grades who are removed from their regular classes for mandatory or discretionary disciplinary reasons and placed in a DAEP.

DAP (Distinguished Achievement Program)

A program that requires that, in addition to specific course requirements, students successfully complete any combination of four advanced measures that focus on demonstrated student performance at the college level or work equivalent to that done by professionals in the arts, sciences, business, industry or in community service.



EEO (Equal Educational Opportunity)

An act that prohibits specific discriminatory conduct, including segregating students on the basis of race, color or national origin, and discrimination against faculty and staff. The Equal Educational Opportunity Act of 1974 also requires school districts to take action to overcome students' language barriers that impede equal participation in educational programs.

ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act)

A federal law passed in 1965 that funded primary and secondary education. The act was reauthorized by Congress multiple times after its enactment and in 2001 was renamed the No Child Left Behind Act. This major education law is now being referred to as ESEA once again.

FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

A federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. Parents have a right of access to their children's education records. When a student turns 18 or enters college, the rights under FERPA transfer to the student.

FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas)

An accountability rating for a school district. It is based on the district's overall performance on certain financial measurements, ratios, and other indicators that are established by the commissioner of education.

FSP (Foundation School Program)

The state program that establishes the amount of state and local funding due to school districts under the Texas school finance law.

FTE (Full-Time Equivalent)

This term refers to a full-time employee. When calculating the number of staff members employed by a district, for example, two half-time employees would equal one full-time equivalent employee.

IB (International Baccalaureate)

A nonprofit educational foundation that offers three programs for students aged 3 to 19 to help develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills needed to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world

IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

A law ensuring services to children with disabilities throughout the nation. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services to eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.



IFA (Instructional Facilities Allotment)

An allotment that provides funding to school districts for payments on debt service for the purchase, construction, renovation, and expansion of instructional facilities.

LEA (Local Educational Agencies)

A public school district, open-enrollment charter school or regional education service center.

LEP (Limited English Proficient) Student Success Initiative

An initiative that provides intensive programs of instruction for students with limited English proficiency. It also provides training materials and other resources to assist teachers in developing the expertise required to enable students of LEP to meet state performance standards.

LFA (Local Fund Assignment)

A portion of school districts' Tier I entitlement under the Foundation School Program, which the districts are responsible for funding. Tier I is made up of several allotments, including those for basic education, special education, career and technical education and other programs.

MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)

A document that expresses mutual accord on an issue between two or more parties.

NCLB (No Child Left Behind)

A program passed in 2001 that supports standards-based education reform. The act requires states to develop assessments in basic skills to be given to all students in certain grades if those states are to receive federal funding for schools. The act does not assert a national achievement standard; standards are set by each individual state.

NIFA (New Instructional Facility Allotment)

An allotment that provides operational expenses associated with the opening of a new instructional facility.

PEIMS (Public Education Information Management System)

An application that encompasses all data requested and received by TEA about public education, including student demographic and academic performance, personnel, financial, and organizational information.

PIA (Public Information Act)

A Texas state law that gives the public access to government records. All government information, with certain exceptions, is presumed to be available to the public.



RDA (Results Driven Accountability)

An automated data system that reports annually on the performance of local education agencies (LEAs) in selected program areas (bilingual education/English as a second language, career and technical education, certain federal Title programs, and special education).

RFP (Request for Proposals)

A competitive solicitation method used for highly technical or specialized services. It is generally used when there is no direct legal authority to acquire services exceeding \$25,000.

RFQ (Request for Qualifications)

A competitive solicitation document requesting submission of qualifications or specialized expertise in response to the scope of services required.

RFO (Request for Offer)

A solicitation for computer-related products or services exceeding \$5,000 requesting the submission of an offer in response to the required scope of services, including a cost proposal.

RFI (Request for Information)

A general invitation to contractors requesting information for a potential future agency solicitation. The RFI is typically used as a research and information-gathering tool for preparation of a solicitation.

RFA (Request for Application)

An application for a grant. It is used usually used for school districts or open-enrollment charter school grants.

RTI (Response to Intervention)

The practice of meeting the academic and behavioral needs of all students through high-quality instruction and scientific research-based tiered interventions, frequent monitoring of student progress, and application of student response data.

SBEC (State Board for Educator Certification)

A state board that provides certification testing for educators, investigates allegations of educator misconduct, assists colleges, universities and alternative programs in developing and implementing teacher certification training programs, and ensures the quality of these programs.

SBOE (State Board of Education)

A state board comprising 15 elected members from districts throughout the state that establishes policy and provides leadership for the Texas public school system. The board sets curriculum standards, determines passing scores for state-mandated assessment tests, and oversees the investment of the Permanent School Fund.



SHARS (School Health & Related Services)

A Medicaid financing program that is a joint effort of TEA and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). SHARS allows local school districts and shared services arrangements to obtain Medicaid reimbursement for certain health-related services provided to students in special education.

SIP (School Improvement Program)

A program that provides supplemental funds to Title I campuses that fail to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two or more consecutive years. Funds are used to improve student achievement.

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)

A series of state-mandated standardized tests given to Texas public school students in grades 3-8 and those enrolled in five specific high school courses. First given in spring 2012, STAAR is based on the state's curriculum standards called the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

TAC (Texas Administrative Code)

A compilation of all state agency rules in Texas. These rules are collected and published by the Office of the Secretary of State. There are 16 titles in the TAC. Each title represents a subject category, and related agencies are assigned to the appropriate title. State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education Rules are codified in the TAC under Title 19, Education, Part 2, Texas Education Agency. State Board for Educator Certification Rules are codified in the TAC under Title 19, Education, Part 7, State Board for Educator Certification.

TAPR (Texas Academic Performance Reports)

An annual statistical report produced each fall that contains a wide range of information about student performance, school and district staffing, programs, and student demographics. TAPR replaced the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report in the 2012-2013 school year.

TEA (Texas Education Agency)

The Texas agency that provides leadership, guidance, and resources to help schools meet the educational needs of all students. Located in Austin, Texas, TEA is the administrative unit for primary and secondary public education. Under the leadership of the commissioner of education, the agency manages the textbook adoption process, oversees development of the statewide curriculum, administers the statewide assessment program, administers a data collection system on public school students, staff and finances, rates school districts under the statewide accountability system, operates research and information programs, monitors for compliance with federal guidelines and serves as a fiscal agent for the distribution of state and federal funds.

TEC (Texas Education Code)

A set of the state statutes (laws) governing public education in Texas. It applies to all educational institutions supported in whole or in part by state tax funds, unless specifically excluded by the code. The TEC directs the goals and framework of public education in Texas. It is established by the Texas Legislature.



TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills)

State educational standards for what students should know and be able to do from prekindergarten through high school.

TELPAS (Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System)

An assessment for the progress limited English proficient (LEP) students make in learning the English language.

TOY (Teacher of the Year)

The highest honor that the state of Texas can bestow upon a teacher. Facilitated by the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Teacher of the Year Program annually recognizes and rewards teachers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and excellence in teaching. Winners are chosen from representatives of each of the 20 Regional Education Service Centers.

UIL (University Interscholastic League)

A league created by The University of Texas at Austin to provide educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests. UIL organizes and supervises contests that assist in preparing students for citizenship.

WADA (Weighted Average Daily Attendance)

The weighted average daily attendance figure used in several state funding formulas to calculate the amount of state and local funds to which a district is entitled.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS & SUPPORT SERVICES

ABC (Academic, Behavior, and Communication) Services

Academic, Behavior, and Communication (ABC) services are designed for students who exhibit a combination of severe cognitive, communication and behavioral challenges.

ATS (Adult Transition Services)

ATS are designed for students who have met high school graduation requirements but require additional supports to facilitate the transition to adult life beyond the age of 18.

BSS (Behavior Support Services)

BSS are services designed for students who exhibit significant challenging behaviors and require social and/or behavioral support.



CLaSS (Communication Language and Social Skills) Services

CLaSS provides social and/or behavioral services for students who are able to function academically in the lesser restrictive setting but require social and/or behavioral support in order to facilitate the development of socially appropriate behaviors.

CLaSS Plus (Communication Language and Social Skills Plus) Services

CLaSS Plus services are designed for students who exhibit significant challenging behaviors and require social, emotional, and behavioral support to facilitate the development and demonstration of appropriate behavior and functioning in the school setting.

ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education) Services

ECSE Services are offered to students with identified developmental delays who are 3-5 years old.

FLaSH (Functional Living and School Health) Services

FLaSH services provide a developmentally appropriate program for students who exhibit significant, profound cognitive and communication impairments and/or multiple impairments.

SAILS (Succeeding in Academic and Independent Living Skills) Services

SAILS services are designed to provide students with significant cognitive disabilities an educational program focusing on life skills such as personal care, pre-vocational activities, communication, functional academics and/or social skills.