

PACE Glossary of Functional Terms

ACRONYM	DEFINITION	
AAC	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	Augmentative and Alternative Communication are devices used to enhance communication, language development and reading literacy. (Examples include: Picture Communication Books, Visual Aid Displays, and Picture Choice Boards. More sophisticated devices might include iPads, tablets, and voice output devices.)
ABA	Applied Behavioral Analysis	Applied Behavior Analysis is the most widely adopted methodology for addressing autism spectrum disorders. This is an intensive, evidence-based approach to teaching behaviors and cognitive skills to children with autism. ABA uses the principles of learning and motivation to change behavior.
ABLLS	Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills	The Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills is an assessment, curriculum guide, and skills tracking system for children with language delays. The ABLLS contains a task analysis of the many skills necessary to communicate successfully and to learn from everyday experiences. It is one of the preliminary diagnostic behavior evaluation tests given to children suspected of having ASD. The more exhaustive test is the ADOS.
ADOS	Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule	The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) is the benchmark for assessing and diagnosing autism across ages, developmental levels, and language skills.
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder	ASD is the established term for the complete range of autism disorders and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDD-NOS – Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified • Asperger's Syndrome • Autism • CDD – Childhood Disintegrative Disorder
BCBA	Board Certified Behavior Analyst	A BCBA is a board certified individual who specializes in behavior and is trained to provide and supervise behavior analysis. Often it is a BCBA who supervises individuals providing ABA. Neither ABA nor BCBA, by definition, is autism specific.
CDE	California Department of Education	Oversees CA state schools. http://www.cde.ca.gov/
CTC	California Commission on Teacher Credentialing	Administers teaching credentials in the state of California.
DDS	Department of Developmental Services	The California Department of Developmental Services is the agency through which the State of California provides services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities.
DIR	Developmental, Individual-difference Relationship based model	The Developmental, Individual-difference Relationship based model is a methodology for addressing developmental disorders. Floortime® and DIR are best known as techniques for building a child's emotional reciprocity and engagement.
DSM V	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders	The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders is the reference manual that mental health professionals and physicians use to diagnose mental disorders in the USA. This was first published in 1952 and the most recent edition, the DSM 5, was published in 2013.
DSP	Direct Support Professionals	These aides provide hands-on support to clients.
EL	Expressive language	Ability to use language to communicate and express oneself.
ESY	Extended School Year	The delivery of special education and related services during the summer vacation or other extended periods when school is not in session. The purpose for ESY is to prevent a child with a disability from losing previously learned skills. The IEP team considers the need for Extended School Year and describes those services with specific goals and objectives. Not all special education students require an extended school year.

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FAPE	Free and Appropriate Public Education	A term widely used in the legislation related to IDEA. All children are entitled to a “free and appropriate education.” This insures an appropriate school placement, at no cost to the parents, for children with special needs.
Floortime	Floortime® Therapy	Floortime therapy derives from the DIR-based model (noted above) created by child psychiatrists Stanley Greenspan, M.D. and Serena Wieder, PhD. Its premise is that adults can help children expand their circles of communication by meeting them at their developmental level and building on their strengths.
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	The Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act originally passed by congress in 1975, requires states to develop and implement policies that assure a free appropriate public education to all children with disabilities. You may hear the term IDEIA 2004 used as well, which is a re-authorized IDEA that was signed into law in 2004.
IDEIA 2004	Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act	Re-authorized IDEA signed into law by President Bush on 12/3/04 and went into effect on 7/1/05.
IEP	Individual Education Plan	The IDEA requires public schools to develop an IEP for every student with a disability who is found to meet the federal and state requirements for special education. The IEP must be designed to provide the child with a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). The IEP refers both to the educational program to be provided to a child with a disability and to the written document that describes that educational program.
IHSS	In-Home Supportive Services	State support and services to children/adults who are disabled and living in home environments.
IPP	Individual Program Plan	The IPP is a record of all the decisions and documents made by the planning team in a residential facility related to an individual client's capacities and capabilities.
ITP	Individual Transition Program	Transition planning. This refers to planning for an adolescents' post-school life and must begin by age 14-1/2. It involves preparation of a document called an Individual Transition Program (ITP). Good practice may involve planning for earlier transitions as well as incorporating such plans into the child's IEP.
LCI	Licensed Children's Institution	A residential facility that is licensed by the state, or other public agency, to provide nonmedical care to children, including, but not limited to, individuals with exceptional needs.
LEA	Local Education Agency	A commonly used synonym for a school district, an entity which operates local public primary and secondary schools.
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment	The IDEA requires that a student with a disability should have the opportunity to be educated with non-disabled peers, in the Least Restrictive Environment to the greatest extent possible.
NCLB 2001	No Child Left Behind	The Federal law that reauthorized a number of federal programs aiming to improve the performance of U.S. schools by increasing the standards of accountability for states, school districts, and schools. 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. It was signed into law on January 8, 2002.
NPS	Non Public School	California's nonpublic schools (NPs) are specialized private schools that provide services to public school students with exceptional needs, pursuant to an individualized education plan (IEP). The tuition of a student in an NPS is paid by the public school that places the student in the NPS based on the student's individual needs. Unlike other private schools, each NPS is certified by the CDE.

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OT	Occupational Therapist	An Occupational Therapist works with clients to help them engage in meaningful activities of daily life, especially to enable or encourage participation in such activities in spite of impairments or limitations in physical or mental functions.
P&I	Personal and Incidental	A county fund given to the parents of children with disabilities to support the child's additional expenses.
RCs	Regional Centers	In California, Regional Centers are nonprofit private corporations that contract with the California Department of Developmental Services to provide or coordinate services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.
RL	Receptive Language	Language that is spoken or written by others and received by the individual. Receptive language skills are listening and reading.
PECS	Picture Exchange Communication System	PECS® is a method of utilizing images to reference and communicate actions for non-verbal individuals. This is generally supported with a binder of images or an electronic image device.
SARC	School Accountability Report Card	Requirement under CA AB 1858. California public schools annually provide information about themselves to the community allowing the public to evaluate and compare schools for student achievement, environment, resources and demographics.
SARC	San Andreas Regional Center	The San Andreas Regional Center serves the San Francisco Bay Area. See "RCs" above. SARC is one of 21 RCs in California.
SELPA	Special Education Local Plan Area	In California, the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) provides county wide regional coordination and leadership in special education to insure compliance with state and federal laws relating to students with disabilities.
SLP	Speech and Language Pathologist	A Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) is a highly-trained professional who evaluates and treats children and adults who have difficulty with speech or language.
Son-rise	Son-rise Methodology	The Son-Rise Program educational treatment modality is based on joining children instead of going against them. The program places parents as key teachers, therapists and directors of their own programs and utilizes the home as the most nurturing environment in which to help their children. The Son-Rise Program suggests that respect and deep caring are the most important factors impacting a child's motivation to learn, and makes love and acceptance a meaningful part of every teaching process.
SSI	Supplemental Security Income	Social Security benefits given to children in group homes for supportive living.
TBI	Traumatic brain injury	Physical damage to the brain that could result in physical, behavioral, or mental changes depending on which area of the brain is injured. TBI could impact a student's education; special education services might be needed.

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