

Common Hearing Loss Terms (you may want to know more about):

Accommodations

Changes that allow a person with a disability to participate fully in an activity. Examples include extended time, different test format and alterations to a classroom.

ADD/ADHD

Attention deficit disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is a condition characterized by a child's inability to focus, while possessing impulsivity, fidgeting and inattention.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Federal law that protects persons with disabilities from discrimination in the operation of public businesses and governments.

Assessment or Evaluation

Term used to describe all testing and diagnostic processes leading up to the development of an appropriate IEP for a student with special education needs.

Asperger's Syndrome

Type of pervasive developmental disorder (PDD) that involves delays in the development of basic skills including socializing, coordination and the ability to communicate.

Autism

A brain development disorder characterized by impaired social interaction and communication, and by restricted and repetitive behavior. Signs usually begin before a child is 3. years-old.

BATNA

BATNA is a term coined by Roger Fisher and William Ury in their 1981 bestseller, *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Without Giving In.* It stands for *best alternative to a negotiated agreement.*

Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)

A plan to address problem behavior that includes, as appropriate, positive behavioral interventions, strategies and supports; program modifications; and supplementary aids and services that may be required to address the problem behavior.

Blindness

Condition of lacking visual perception due to physiological or neurological factors.

Cerebral Palsy (CP)

A series of motor problems and physical disorders related to brain injury. CP causes uncontrollable reflex movements and muscle tightness, and may cause problems in balance and depth perception. Severe cases can result in mental retardation, seizures, or vision and hearing problems.

Child with a Disability

A child who has a disability as defined in one of the 13 disability categories in IDEA and who needs special education and related services because of the disability; or a child aged 3 through 9 years who is experiencing developmental delay.

Child Find

Ongoing activities undertaken by states and local school districts to locate, identify and evaluate all children residing in a state who are suspected of having disabilities so that a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) can be made available to all eligible children.

Courses of Study

Middle and high school course work (or classes) that lead to a certain type of diploma and/or are required for post-secondary education.

Cumulative File

The records maintained by the local school district for any child enrolled in school. It may contain evaluations and information about a child's disability and placement. Contains grades and results of standardized assessments. Parents have the right to inspect these files at any time.

Curriculum Based Measurement (CBM)

Tools for measuring student competency and progress in the basic skill areas of reading fluency, spelling, mathematics and written language.

Deaf (deafness, hearing loss)

The partial or extreme loss of or inability for a person to receive information through hearing/listening without the assistance of hearing technology. Any degree of deafness, from mild to profound, has the potential to impact a child's language, communication and academic development without proper intervention.

Designated Instruction Services (DIS)

Instruction and services not normally provided by regular classes, resource specialist programs or special day classes. They include speech therapy and adaptive physical education.

Developmental Delay

A disability category that states may use for certain students aged 3 through 9 years as a way to provide early services for students suspected of having a disability. If used, the definition of developmental delay is determined by the state and may include a child whose development, as measured by appropriate diagnostic tests and procedures, lags behind peers in one or more of the following areas: physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development or adaptive development and who, because of such delays, needs special education and related services.

Differential Standards for Graduation

Standards for graduation that may be modified for students with exceptional needs.

Disability

Physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Disability Categories:

IDEA disability categories include autism, deaf-blindness, deafness, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment (e.g., asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, sickle cell anemia and Tourette syndrome), specific learning disability, (e.g. perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, developmental aphasia), speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual

impairment (including blindness), and developmental delay.

Due Process Complaint

A written complaint filed by a parent or a school district involving any matter relating to the identification, evaluation, educational placement or provision of a free and appropriate public education to a student with a disability. Due process complaints must be filed within two years of the matter in dispute.

Due Process Hearing

A formal, quasi-legal procedure before an impartial hearing officer or administrative law judge (or panel of judges) who is not an employee of the state educational agency or school district. Both the parents and the school district present arguments and evidence.

Early Intervention Services

Services to infants and toddlers provided under Part C of IDEA. Part C established the Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities, a federal grant program that assists states in operating a comprehensive statewide program of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities aged birth through 2 years and their families. Early intervention services include multi-disciplinary evaluation of needs of children and family-directed identification of the needs of each family as set out in an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Eligibility

The determination that a student is a child with a disability.

Extended School Year Services (ESYS)

Extended school year is special education services for students with unique needs who require services in excess of the regular academic year. Extended year often refers to summer school.

Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA)

A problem-solving process for addressing inappropriate behavior.

Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

Special education and related services that are provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without charge to the parent that meet the standards of the state education department. Special education and related services must be provided in conformity with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) as required by IDEA.

Inclusion

Term used to describe service that places students with disabilities in general education classrooms with appropriate support services.

Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE)

A school district is required by law to conduct assessment for students who may be eligible for special education. If the parent disagrees with the results of a school district's evaluation conducted on their child, they have the right to request an independent educational evaluation. The district must provide the parent with information about how to obtain an IEE. An independent educational evaluation means an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not employed by the school district. Public expense means the school district pays for the full cost of the evaluation and that it is provided at no cost to the parent.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004)

The original legislation for IDEA was passed into law in 1975 and guarantees students with disabilities a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) and the right to be educated with their non-disabled peers. Congress regularly reauthorizes this law, the most recent revision occurred in 2004.

Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Special education term used by IDEA to define the written document that states goals, objectives and services for students receiving special education.

Individualized Education Program Team

Term used to describe the committee of parents, teachers, administrators and school personnel that provides services to the student. The committee may also include medical professionals and other relevant parties. The team reviews assessment results and determines goals, objectives and program placement for the child needing services.

Individualized Family Service Plan (ISFP)

A process of providing early intervention services for children ages birth to 3 with special needs. Family-based needs are identified and a written plan is developed and reviewed periodically.

Individualized Transition Plan (ITP)

This plan starts at age 14 and addresses areas of post-school activities, post-secondary education, employment, community experiences and daily living skills.

Interim Alternative Educational Setting (IAES)

A setting other than the student's current placement that enables the student to continue to receive educational services according to his or her IEP. The IAES must enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and progress toward meeting the goals set out in the IEP. Students in an IAES should also receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not happen again. The particular IAES is determined by the student's IEP team.

Informed Consent

Procedure to ensure that the parent 1) has been fully informed of all information related to the proposed activity (in his or her native language or other mode of communication); 2) understands and agrees in writing to carrying out the activity for which his consent is sought; 3) understands that giving consent is voluntary and may be revoked at any time; and 4) understands that revoking consent will not apply to an activity that has already occurred. Informed consent is required for an evaluation, a re-evaluation and for the initial delivery of the special education services.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities are to be educated with children who are not disabled. Special classes, separate schooling or other ways of removing children with disabilities from the regular educational environment should only occur when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes cannot be achieved satisfactorily with the use of supplementary aids and services.

Listening and Spoken Language Specialists

Listening and Spoken Language Specialists (LSLSs) help children who are deaf or hard of hearing develop spoken language and literacy primarily through listening. LSLSs focus on education, guidance, advocacy, family support and the rigorous application of techniques, strategies and procedures that promote optimal acquisition of spoken language through listening by newborns, infants, toddlers and children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

LSLSs guide parents in helping their children develop intelligible spoken language through listening and coach them in advocating their children's inclusion in a mainstream school. Ultimately, parents gain confidence that their children will have access to the full range of educational, social and vocational choices in life.

Local Education Agency (LEA)

Term used to describe a local school district. Often referred to as the district.

Mediation

A confidential, voluntary process that allows parties to resolve disputes without a formal due process hearing. An impartial mediator helps the parties to express their views and positions and to understand the other's views and positions. The mediator's role is to facilitate discussion and help parties reach an agreement. Not to recommend solutions or take positions or sides.

Multiple Disabilities

An IEP term used to define a combination of disabilities that causes severe educational needs that require multiple special education programs, for example, mental retardation with blindness.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

The current revision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) . the principle federal law affecting public education from kindergarten through high school in the United States.

Occupational Therapy/Therapist (OT)

Occupational therapy (OT) refers to therapy that helps children perform everyday skills and activities. Pediatric occupational therapists are qualified occupational therapists who work with infants and children who have problems in cognitive functions, movement and coordination.

Parent

A natural, adoptive or foster parent; an individual acting in the place of a natural or adoptive parent; an individual who is legally responsible for the child; a guardian; or a surrogate parent.

Parent Consent

Special education term used by IDEA that states the parent has been fully informed in his or her native language or other mode of communication of all the information about the action for which the parent is giving consent and that the parent understands and agrees in writing to that action.

Physical Therapy/Therapist (PT)

Pediatric physical therapy assists in early detection of health problems and uses a wide variety of modalities to treat disorders in the pediatric population. These therapists are specialized in the diagnosis, treatment and management of infants, children and adolescents with a variety of congenital, developmental, neuromuscular, skeletal or acquired disorders/diseases. Treatments focus on improving gross and fine motor skills, balance and coordination, strength and endurance, as well as cognitive and sensory processing/integration.

Postsecondary Education

Formal education or training beyond high school, including college, university, vocational school and trade school.

Prior Written Notice

A written notice that the school must provide to the parents of a student with a disability within a reasonable timeframe if they wish to: 1) evaluate the student; 2) determine whether the student is eligible for special education services; 3) change the student's evaluation or educational placement or educational plan (IEP); 4) refuse the parents' request to evaluate their child or change their child's educational plan (IEP) or placement.

Private School

There are new laws regulating the rights of students with disabilities whose parents place them in private schools. When a student is enrolled in a private school and has academic difficulties, the school is required to inform the parent and local public school district of the student's difficulties. The district of residence may assess the student to determine if the student qualifies for special education. If they do qualify, the district of residence is responsible for writing an Individualized Education Program (see Unilateral Placement).

Progress Monitoring

A scientifically based practice used to assess a student's academic performance and evaluate the effectiveness of instruction. Progress monitoring can be implemented with individual students or an entire class.

Related Services

Supportive services that are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education. Related services include transportation, developmental and corrective services, speech-language pathology and audiology services, interpreting services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, recreation (including therapeutic recreation), counseling services (including rehabilitation counseling), orientation and mobility services, and medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes. Related services also include school health services, school nurse services designed to enable a child with a disability to receive a free appropriate public education as described in the child's IEP, social work services in schools, and parent counseling and training. For children who are deaf or hard of hearing, they may also include acoustic accommodations, preferential seating, use of assistive listening devices and other services.

Response-To-Intervention (RTI)

A comprehensive, multi-step process that closely monitors how the student is responding to different types of services and instruction.

Resolution Session

A mandatory meeting that the school district must convene within 15 days of receiving the parents' due process complaint. The resolution session includes parents, members of the IEP team relevant to the complaint and a representative of the school district who has decision-making authority.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

A federal law that requires a school district to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to each child with a disability in the district's jurisdiction.

School District

The term "school district" and "school" are used to refer to the entity that has legal authority, control and responsibility for public education in a city, county, town (or combination of these) or other subdivision of a state.

Scientific, Research-Based Instruction

Curriculum and educational interventions that are research-based and have been proven to be effective for most students.

Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD)

A complex brain disorder that causes a child to misinterpret everyday sensory information like movement, sound and touch. Children with SPD may seek out intense sensory experiences or feel overwhelmed with information.

Special Education

Specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability, including instruction conducted in the classroom, in the home, in hospitals and institutions, and in other settings; and instruction in physical education.

Specially Designed Instruction

Ways that special education professionals adapt the content, methodology (approaches to teaching certain grade-level content), or the delivery of instruction to address the unique needs that result from the child's disability. Specially designed instruction should also ensure that the eligible child has access to the general curriculum so that he or she can meet the educational standards of the school district that apply to all children.

Specific Learning Disability

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 the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell or do mathematical calculations. The term includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia and developmental aphasia. The term does not include a learning problem that is primarily the result of visual, hearing or motor disabilities; mental retardation; emotional disturbance; or of environmental, cultural or economic disadvantage.

Speech and Language Pathologist or Specialist

Assesses students for possible delayed speech and language skills and provides direct services in the area of phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics.

Stakeholders

A person or group of people who have a vested interest in the success of a project and the environment in which it operates, such as the general field of deafness and/or the specific project of developing an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

State Complaint

A written complaint that can be filed by any organization or individual claiming that a school district within the state has either violated a requirement of Part B of IDEA (the part that contains all requirements regarding the delivery of special education services), or the state's special education law or regulations. State complaints must be filed within one year of the alleged violation.

Summary of Performance

A summary of the student's academic achievement and functional performance that includes recommendations to assist the student in meeting his or her postsecondary goals.

Supplemental Aids and Services

Aids, services and other supports that are provided in regular education classes or other education-related settings to enable children with disabilities to be educated with nondisabled children to the maximum extent appropriate. Examples of supplemental aids and services might be assistive technologies such as a computer or adapted physical education.

Unilateral Placement

Parents may decide to place their child who has an educational disability in a private program that is not part of the public education system. This is typically referred to as a **unilateral placement**. If the local education agency or school district has made a free and appropriate public education available to the child, the IDEA states that school districts are not responsible for paying for private programs when parents have made a unilateral placement.

Universal Screening

A step taken by school personnel early in the school year to determine which students are **at risk** for not meeting grade level standards. Universal screening can be accomplished by reviewing a student's recent performance on state or district tests or by administering an academic screening to all students in a given grade. Students whose scores on the screening fall below a certain cut-off point are identified as needing continued progress monitoring and possibly more intensive interventions.

ABBREVIATIONS

AuD	Doctor of Audiology
AVT	Auditory Verbal Therapist
CCC/A	Certification of Clinical Competency in Audiology
	Certification of Clinical Competency in Speech Language
CCC/SLP	Pathology
D/HH	Deaf/Hard of Hearing
DSW	Doctorate of Social Work
ENT	Ear, Nose and Throat
FAAA	Fellow of the American Academy of Audiology
HI	Hearing Impaired
HOH	Hard of Hearing
LCSW	Licensed Clinical Social Worker
LSLS	Listening and Spoken Language Specialist
MA	Master of Arts
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MD	Medical Doctor
MS	Master of Science

OT Occupational Therapist
PT Physical Therapist
SLP Speech Language Pathologist
TOD Teacher of the Deaf

TERMS YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW . . . was developed using resources at www.UnderstandingSpecialEducation.com, the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD), and the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell).