



**IEP CLARITY CO.**

CLARITY FOR PARENTS. CONFIDENCE FOR MEETINGS.

# A Parent's Guide to Special Education Acronyms



Understanding the language is the first step  
to confidently advocating for your child.

**IEP**

## Individualized Education Program

A legal document that outlines your child's unique needs, goals, services, and supports.

**FAPE**

## Free Appropriate Public Education

A legal right for every student with a disability to receive an education that meets their unique needs at no cost to the family.

**LRE**

## Least Restrictive Environment

Students should be educated with their peers without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate.

**PWN**

## Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance

A section of the IEP that describes your child's current strengths, challenges, and how their disability impacts learning.

**PLAAFP**

## Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance

Another way schools may refer to PWN.

**SMART**

## Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound

A framework for writing clear, measurable IEP goals.

**SDI**

## Specially Designed Instruction

Instruction that is adapted or changed to meet the unique needs of your child.

**BIP**

## Behavior Intervention Plan

A plan that outlines strategies and supports to address behavior and teach replacement skills.

**ESY**

## Extended School Year

Additional school services beyond the regular year to help prevent regression of skills.

**504**

## Section 504 Plan

A plan under federal law that provides supports and accommodations so a student can access education (not the same as an IEP).

**SPED**

## Special Education

Specially designed instruction and services to meet the unique needs of a student with a disability.

**OT**

## Occupational Therapy

Services that help children develop skills for daily tasks (sensory, fine motor, self-care, etc.).

**PT**

## Physical Therapy

Services that help improve a child's strength, movement, balance, and coordination.

**SLP**

## Speech-Language Pathology

Services that support communication, language, speech sound production, and/or swallowing.

**AAC**

## Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Tools and strategies that help students communicate in different ways.

**AT**

## Assistive Technology

Devices or tools that help a student access learning and show what they know.

**FBA**

## Functional Behavior Assessment

A process used to understand the reason behind a behavior.

**FERPA**

## Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

A law that protects the privacy of student education records.



### Quick Tips for Parents

- ✓ It's okay to ask what an acronym means.
- ✓ You are part of the team.
- ✓ When in doubt, ask for clarification in writing.
- ✓ You know your child best!



### Remember

You don't have to navigate this alone. Clarity leads to confidence. Confidence leads to better outcomes for your child.



IEP CLARITY CO.

Helping parents feel more informed, confident, and prepared when navigating the IEP process.

Educational support only.  
Not legal advice or representation.