

ESSENTIAL *definitions*

FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education) is a federal law guaranteeing students with disabilities a public education that is tailored to their individual needs and provided at no cost to the family. It's essentially a legal right ensuring your child with a disability receives a special education program that meets their specific learning needs.
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment for a child with a disability means their education should happen in the same classrooms as their non-disabled peers as much as possible. It's about finding the most inclusive setting where they can receive the support they need to learn and grow, while also benefiting from being with their peers.
IEP	An Individualized Education Program is a collaboratively written plan that outlines how a student with a disability will receive special education and related services, a customized roadmap for their education, designed to help them reach their full potential.
ACCOMMODATION VS. MODIFICATION	Accommodations don't change the content and focus on how students learn. This could include things like giving extra time, using visual aids, or providing a quieter workspace. Modifications do change the content to different or simplified materia and focus is on what they learn. This could involve shorter reading assignments, simplified worksheets, or different learning goals.
PRESENT LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE	What your child can do and what they know right now, both academically and in terms of functional skills like social interaction or daily living. It's like a snapshot of your child's current abilities, strengths, and areas where they might need support.
ANNUAL GOALS	What a child is expected to learn or achieve within a year, based on their current abilities and needs.

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RELATED SERVICES

Extra support that helps your child with a disability make the most of their special education program. Think of them as "helper services" that address areas where your child might need extra help, such as speech, movement, or understanding their surroundings.

TRANSITION SERVICES

A coordinated set of activities that focus on improving academic and functional skills to help students move from school to post-school activities like college, vocational training, job opportunities, and independent living.

PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE

The school district has to send you a written explanation before making any changes to your child's special education plan or services that explain what they are proposing to change or refuse, why they're doing it, and any evaluation information they used to make that decision. It's a legal right that ensures parents are informed and can participate in decisions about their child's education.

PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

The rules and procedures that protect parents' and students' rights when dealing with the school system, especially regarding special education and ensure parents are informed about everything, can participate in decisions, and have ways to resolve disagreements if needed.

IDEA

(Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
a federal law that ensures children with disabilities have access to FAPE, so they can get the help they need to learn and grow, just like other kids and provides legal protections for these students and their families, including the right to participate in decisions about their child's education.

504 PLAN

A document created to provide accommodations and support for students with disabilities who are eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These plans aim to ensure students with disabilities have equal access to education and resources, even if they don't require special education services.