

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Academic Programs and Assessments Acronyms (A–Z)

Acronym	Definition	Category	Example use
ACCUPLACER	College placement test		Students take the ACCUPLACER for course placement.
ACT	College entrance exam (standardized test used for college admissions, including subject-based sections)	Assessment	She took the ACT this spring.
AP	Advanced Placement (college-level courses offered in high school that can earn college credit)	Academic Programs	She is enrolled in AP Biology.
AP Exam	End-of-course exam for AP classes (standardized test used to determine eligibility for college credit)	Assessment	She passed the AP Exam to earn college credit.
AYP	Adequate Yearly Progress, a former federal measure of school performance under No Child Left Behind (NCLB)	Assessment	The school met AYP targets.
B.E.S.T.	Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking, Florida’s standards for English language arts and math	State Learning Standards	The curriculum was updated to reflect B.E.S.T. standards.
CBA	Curriculum-Based Assessment, a method of evaluating student progress using materials and skills directly tied to the curriculum being taught, often used alongside CBM to monitor performance over time	Assessment	Teachers use CBA results to determine whether students are meeting expected benchmarks in reading and math.
CBM	Curriculum-Based Measurement	Assessment	Teachers use CBM to track progress.
CCR	College and Career Readiness	Academic Outcomes	The program supports CCR goals.
CCSS	Common Core State Standards	Learning Standards	The curriculum aligns with CCSS.
CTE	Career and Technical Education	Academic Programs	Students enroll in CTE pathways.
DAP	Developmentally Appropriate Practice	Academic Programs	Teachers use DAP to guide classroom activities.
DIBELS	Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills	Assessment	DIBELS measures reading skills.
DE	Dual Enrollment (college courses taken while in high school, often through a local college)	Academic Programs	She is enrolled in DE math through a local college.

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DC	Dual Credit (courses that count for both high school and college credit simultaneously)	Academic Programs	The student completed DC English and earned college credit.
ECHS	Early College High School (program where students can earn significant college credit or an associate degree while in high school)	Academic Programs	Students in ECHS may graduate with an associate degree.
EOC	End-of-Course exam (state-required test given after completing specific high school courses)	Assessment	Students must pass the EOC to graduate.
ERB	Educational Records Bureau (organization that provides standardized assessments commonly used by independent schools)	Assessment	The school uses ERB testing to assess student performance.
GATE	Gifted and Talented Education, programs and services designed to support students with advanced academic ability through accelerated or enriched instruction (terminology and eligibility vary by state and district)	Academic Programs	he student participates in the school's GATE program for advanced learners.
GPA	Grade Point Average	Academic	Her GPA improved this semester.
GT	Gifted and Talented	Academic Programs	The student participates in GT.
IB	International Baccalaureate (a globally recognized academic program with rigorous coursework and assessments)	Academic Programs	She is in the IB program.
ISEE	Independent School Entrance Exam (admissions test used by many private and independent schools)	Assessment	Students applying to private schools may take the ISEE.
MAP	Measures of Academic Progress	Assessment	Students take MAP tests.
NAEP	National Assessment of Educational Progress	Assessment	NAEP provides national benchmarks.
NGSS	Next Generation Science Standards, a multi-state framework that defines what students should know and be able to do in science	State Learning Standards (Multi-state adoption)	Science units are aligned to NGSS performance expectations.
NWEA	NWEA Assessment organization that develops MAP Growth assessments used to measure student progress over time Assessment NWEA MAP scores show growth. Originally stood for Northwest Evaluation Association.	Assessment	The student's NWEA MAP scores show growth.
PSAT	Preliminary SAT (practice exam that also qualifies students for scholarship programs)	Assessment	Students take the PSAT.

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SAT	College entrance exam (standardized test used by colleges for admissions decisions)	Assessment	He is preparing for the SAT.
SOL	Standards of Learning, Virginia's academic standards used to define learning expectations and assessments	State Learning Standards	Students are tested annually based on SOL requirements.
SSAT	Secondary School Admission Test (standardized test used for admission to independent and private schools)	Assessment	The student is preparing for the SSAT.

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Special Education and Student Support Acronyms (A–Z)

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
504	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a federal law that provides accommodations and supports for students with disabilities who do not qualify for special education services	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student receives accommodations through a 504 plan.
AAC	Augmentative and Alternative Communication (methods and devices that support communication for students who cannot rely on speech alone)	Special Education	The student uses AAC to communicate in class.
ABA	Applied Behavior Analysis (therapy approach used to improve behavior, communication, and learning skills, often for students with autism)	Special Education	The student receives ABA support during the school day.
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution, a voluntary process used to resolve disagreements between families and schools without a formal hearing	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The district offered ADR to resolve the disagreement.
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge, the official who presides over special education due process hearings and issues decisions	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The ALJ issued a decision in the case.
APE	Adapted Physical Education, specialized physical education services designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student receives APE services as part of the IEP.
ARD	Admission, Review, and Dismissal (Texas-based meeting where educators and families review and update a student's special education services)	Special Education	The ARD committee met to review the student's services.
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder, a disability category characterized by challenges with communication, social interaction, and behavior	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student qualifies for services under ASD.
BIP	Behavior Intervention Plan (a plan outlining strategies and supports to address and improve student behavior)	Special Education	The student has a BIP in place to support behavior.
BCBA	Board Certified Behavior Analyst, a specialist trained in behavior analysis who designs and oversees behavior intervention plans	Student Support	The BCBA reviewed the student's behavior plan.

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Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
BMP	Behavior Management Plan, a structured plan used in general education or early intervention settings to outline strategies, expectations, and supports for improving student behavior	Student Support	In a middle school setting, a counselor or case manager may coordinate a BMP, with classroom teachers implementing consistent strategies, progress monitoring, and check-ins across multiple classes.
BT	Behavior Technician (staff member who implements behavior support plans, often under supervision of a specialist)	Staff / Support	The BT works with the student on behavior goals.
DHH	Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a disability category for students with hearing impairments that impact learning	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student receives DHH services.
DIS	Designated Instruction and Services, also known as related services, includes supports such as therapy and counseling provided through an IEP	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student receives DIS as part of the IEP.
ED	Emotional Disturbance (eligibility category for students with significant emotional or behavioral needs affecting learning)	Special Education	The student qualifies for services under ED.
ESCE	Early Childhood Special Education, services and support provided to young children (typically ages 3–5) with developmental delays or disabilities	Special Education	The student receives ESCE services to support communication and social development.
ESY	Extended School Year (services provided outside the regular school year for students who need continued support)	Special Education	The student qualifies for ESY services.
FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education (legal requirement ensuring students with disabilities receive appropriate education services at no cost)	Special Education	Services are provided under FAPE.
FBA	Functional Behavior Assessment (evaluation used to identify the causes and triggers of student behavior)	Special Education	An FBA was conducted to understand behavior patterns.
FIE	Full Individual Evaluation (a comprehensive assessment used to determine if a student qualifies for special education services and what supports are needed)	Special Education	The school will conduct an FIE to evaluate the student's needs.
HI	Hearing Impairment (eligibility category for students with hearing-related disabilities)	Special Education	The student receives services under HI.
IA	Instructional Aide (staff member who supports classroom instruction and assists students with learning tasks)	Staff / Support	The IA supports small group instruction.

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Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
IAES	Interim Alternative Education Setting, a temporary placement used when a student is removed from their current placement due to disciplinary action	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student was placed in an IAES during the disciplinary process.
ID	Intellectual Disability, a disability category involving significant limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student qualifies under ID.
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (federal law governing special education services and student rights)	Special Education	IDEA governs how IEP services are delivered.
IEE	Independent Educational Evaluation, an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner not employed by the school district, often requested by parents	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The parent requested an IEE at public expense.
IEP	Individualized Education Program (a legally required plan outlining services, accommodations, and goals for students with disabilities)	Special Education	The IEP outlines the student's goals and services.
IFSP	Individualized Family Services Plan, a plan for early intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The child transitioned from an IFSP to an IEP.
ITP	Individualized Transition Plan, a component of the IEP that outlines postsecondary goals and transition services for students	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The ITP outlines goals for life after high school.
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment (requirement that students with disabilities are educated with peers to the greatest extent appropriate)	Special Education	Placement decisions follow LRE guidelines.
LSSP	Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (professional who conducts evaluations and supports student mental health and behavior)	Student Support	The LSSP completed the student evaluation.
MD	Manifestation Determination, a review process used to determine whether a student's behavior is related to their disability	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The team conducted an MD after the suspension.

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Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
MTSS	Multi-Tiered System of Supports, framework and team structure used to provide academic and behavioral support at multiple levels	Student Support	MTSS is provided in three different tiers for student support.
OAH	Office of Administrative Hearings, the agency that conducts due process hearings and resolves special education disputes	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The case was filed with OAH for a hearing.
OHI	Other Health Impairment (eligibility category for students with health conditions that affect learning, such as ADHD)	Special Education	The student qualifies under OHI.
OI	Orthopedic Impairment, a disability category involving physical impairments that affect mobility or physical functioning	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student receives services under OI.
O&M	Orientation and Mobility, services that support students with visual impairments in navigating their environment safely	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student receives O&M training for campus navigation.
OT	Occupational Therapist (specialist who supports motor skills and daily functioning needed for school tasks)	Student Support	The OT works with the student on fine motor skills.
Para	Paraprofessional (staff member who provides instructional and behavioral support under teacher supervision)	Staff / Support	The para assists the student during reading time.
PPCD	Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities, a public-school program in Texas that provides special education services to children ages 3–5 with identified disabilities	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The child attends a PPCD classroom to receive speech therapy and structured support before kindergarten.
PRT	Pivotal Response Treatment, a behavioral intervention approach often used with students with autism to improve communication and social skills	Student Support	The student receives PRT services to support communication.
PT	Physical Therapist (specialist who supports mobility, strength, and physical access in the school environment)	Student Support	The PT supports the student's mobility needs.
PWN	Prior Written Notice, a required document that explains the school's decisions regarding identification, evaluation, placement, or services	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The district issued PWN after the IEP meeting.

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Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
RBT	Registered Behavior Technician (certified staff member who implements behavior plans under supervision of a behavior analyst)	Staff / Support	The RBT supports the student's behavior plan.
RN	Registered Nurse	Student Support	The RN supports student health.
RSP	Resource Specialist Program, a service delivery model where students receive targeted support from a resource specialist teacher	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student receives RSP support in math.
RTI	Response to Intervention	Student Support	The student receives RTI support.
SAI	Specialized Academic Instruction, individualized instruction provided to support students with disabilities in accessing the general education curriculum	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student receives SAI for reading support.
SLD	Specific Learning Disability, a disability category involving difficulties in areas such as reading, writing, or math	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student qualifies under SLD.
SLI	Speech or Language Impairment, a disability category involving communication disorders such as stuttering or language delays	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student qualifies under SLI.
SLP	Speech-Language Pathologist (specialist who supports speech, language, and communication development)	Student Support	The SLP works with the student on speech skills.
SPED	Special Education (program and services designed to support students with disabilities)	Special Education	She teaches in SPED.
SST	Student Study Team, a school-based team that reviews student concerns and develops intervention strategies prior to special education referral	Student Support	The SST reviewed the student's progress and interventions.
SWD	Students with Disabilities, a general term used in reporting and data to refer to students receiving special education services	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The report includes outcomes for SWD.
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury (eligibility category for students with brain injuries affecting learning and functioning)	Special Education	The student receives services under TBI.

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Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
TEACCH	Treatment and Education of Autistic and Related Communication Handicapped Children, a structured teaching approach used to support students with autism	Student Support	The classroom uses TEACCH strategies.
Tier 1	Core instruction level	Student Support	All students receive Tier 1 instruction.
Tier 2	Targeted support level	Student Support	The student receives Tier 2 support.
Tier 3	Intensive support level	Student Support	Tier 3 provides individualized support.
VI	Visual Impairment (eligibility category for students with vision-related disabilities)	Special Education	The student receives VI services.

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Student Safety and Discipline Acronyms (A–Z)

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
BIR	Behavior Incident Report, a formal record used to document student behavior incidents such as bullying, disruptions, or policy violations	Student Behavior / Discipline	The teacher submitted a BIR after documenting repeated bullying behavior during recess.
DASA	Dignity for All Students Act, a New York law focused on preventing bullying and harassment in schools	State Law / Student Safety	Schools follow DASA guidelines when reporting and addressing bullying incidents.
HIB	Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying, a formal classification used in some states for documenting and investigating bullying incidents	Student Safety / Compliance	The incident was classified as HIB and required formal documentation and follow-up.
ISS	In-School Suspension, a disciplinary action where a student is removed from regular classes but remains in school	Discipline	The student was assigned ISS following repeated behavior incidents.
ODR	Office Discipline Referral, a report used to refer a student to school administration for behavioral concerns or disciplinary action	Student Behavior / Discipline	The student received an ODR after continued classroom disruptions and unsafe behavior.
OSS	Out-of-School Suspension, a disciplinary action where a student is temporarily removed from school due to serious behavior violations	Discipline	The student received OSS after a confirmed bullying incident.
PBIS	Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, a school-wide framework that promotes positive behavior and reduces disciplinary incidents through proactive strategies	School Climate / Behavior Support	The PBIS team reviewed data to reduce bullying incidents and improve school climate.

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English Learner and Multilingual Education Acronyms (A–Z)

Acronym	Definition	Category	Example use
AMAO	Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives, targets used in federal programs to track English learner progress (term used in earlier federal accountability frameworks and still referenced in some documents)	Federal Reporting / Accountability	The district reviewed AMAO-related targets when evaluating English learner progress and program outcomes.
CBI	Content-Based Instruction, an approach where students learn language through subject matter content (e.g., science, history) rather than isolated language drills	Instructional Approach	The ESL teacher used CBI to teach vocabulary and reading skills through a unit on ecosystems.
CLT	Communicative Language Teaching, an instructional approach focused on meaningful communication and real-life language use	Instructional Approach	The teacher used CLT activities so ELL students could practice short conversations in pairs.
DELAC	District English Learner Advisory Committee, a district-level committee that advises on services and programs for English learners / multilingual learners	Committee / Family Engagement	DELAC reviewed district plans for multilingual learner services and family outreach.
DLI	Dual Language Immersion, a program where students learn in two languages (e.g., English and Spanish) to develop bilingualism and biliteracy	Program Model	The school offers a DLI program where students learn math and science in Spanish and English.
EB	Emergent Bilingual, a term used in some states (including Texas) for students developing English proficiency	Student Group / Terminology	Teachers used EB strategies to support language development during reading and science.
EL	English Learner, a student who is learning English in addition to another language and may qualify for language support services	Student Group / Terminology	The campus reviewed EL progress data to plan language supports for the semester.
ELAC	English Learner Advisory Committee, a school-level committee that provides input on services and support for English learners / multilingual learners	Committee / Family Engagement	ELAC provided input on family communication and services for English learners.
ELD	English Language Development, instruction and standards focused on developing English proficiency for English learners	Instruction / Standards	Teachers integrate ELD goals into reading and writing lessons for English learners.
ELL	English Language Learner, a commonly used term for an English Learner (EL)	Student Group / Terminology	The teacher provided sentence frames to support ELL students during class discussions.
ELPAC	English Language Proficiency Assessments for California, the statewide assessment used to measure English learner proficiency in California	Assessment	Students take the ELPAC to measure progress in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
ELPS	English Language Proficiency Standards, standards that guide instruction for English learners (term used in Texas and other contexts)	Instruction / Standards	Teachers align language supports to ELPS while teaching grade-level content.

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Acronym	Definition	Category	Example use
ESL	English as a Second Language, instruction and services designed to support students learning English	Program / Services	The student receives ESL support during the school day to build vocabulary and comprehension.
LEP	Limited English Proficient, an older term still found in some policies and legacy documents for students classified as English learners	Student Group / Terminology (Legacy)	A legacy report listed the student as LEP, meaning they qualified for English learner supports.
MFEL	Monitored Former English Learner, a student who has exited English learner status and is monitored for a period of time to ensure continued academic success	Student Group / Monitoring	After reclassification, the student is listed as MFEL and monitored to ensure continued progress in classes.
SEI	Structured English Immersion, an approach where instruction is delivered primarily in English with strategies that support language development	Instructional Approach	Teachers used SEI strategies to make grade-level lessons understandable while building English proficiency.
SIOP	Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol, a framework for planning and delivering instruction that supports English learners in accessing grade-level content	Instructional Framework	The team used SIOP strategies to support language development in science and social studies.
TELPAS	Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System, the annual assessment used in Texas to measure English learner progress in listening, speaking, reading, and writing	Assessment	Students take TELPAS each spring to measure English proficiency growth.
TWI	Two-Way Immersion, a dual language program model where native English speakers and native speakers of another language learn together using both languages	Program Model	In the TWI classroom, English and Spanish speakers learn together using both languages daily.
WIDA	WIDA, a consortium that provides English language development standards and assessments used by many states to support multilingual learners	Standards / Assessment System	WIDA scores guide language instruction and placement decisions for multilingual learners.

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Reading Level Acronyms (A–Z)

Acronym	Description	Category	Use case
DRA	Developmental Reading Assessment, measures a student’s reading level and progress	Reading Assessment	The student is currently reading at a DRA level 28.
F&P	Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System, used to determine guided reading levels (A–Z)	Reading Assessment	The student is reading at an F&P level M.
GE	Grade Equivalent, a score that compares a student’s reading performance to the typical level of students at a specific grade and month (e.g., 4.5)	Reading Assessment	The student is reading at a GE of 4.5 based on the latest assessment.
GRL	Guided Reading Level, a leveled system (often A–Z) used in reading instruction	Reading Assessment	The teacher shared the student’s GRL during conferences.
Lexile	A reading measure based on text complexity and student ability	Reading Assessment	The student has a Lexile level of 850L.
AR	Accelerated Reader, a program that tracks reading practice and comprehension	Reading Assessment	The student met their AR reading goal this quarter.
IRLA	Independent Reading Level Assessment, used to track reading development	Reading Assessment	The student advanced to a new IRLA level.

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Teaching Methods & Learning Programs (A–Z)

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
CBI	Content-Based Instruction, an approach where students learn language through subject matter content (e.g., science, history) rather than isolated language drills	Language Support	The ESL teacher used CBI to teach vocabulary and reading skills through a unit on ecosystems.
CBL	Challenge-Based Learning, where students solve real-world challenges. The framework includes three interconnected phases: Engage, Investigate and Act	Teaching Method	The class follows a CBL framework for projects.
CLT	Communicative Language Teaching, an instructional approach that focuses on developing students' ability to communicate meaningfully in real-life situations rather than emphasizing grammar rules in isolation	Language Support	The teacher used CLT to have ELL students practice real-life conversations in pairs.
DI	Differentiated Instruction	Teaching Method	Teachers use DI to meet student needs.
DLI	Dual Language Immersion, a program where students learn in two languages (e.g., English and Spanish) to develop bilingualism and biliteracy	Learning Program	The school offers a DLI program where students learn math and science in Spanish and English.
ExpL	Experiential Learning, learning through direct experience and reflection	Teaching Method	The program emphasizes ExpL through outdoor activities.
IBL	Inquiry-Based Learning, where students explore questions and investigations	Teaching Method	Teachers use IBL to encourage student curiosity.
IM	Illustrative Mathematics, a standards-aligned math curriculum used in middle and high schools that focuses on conceptual understanding, problem-solving, and student discourse	Curriculum	The teacher is using the IM curriculum to guide daily math lessons and student discussions.
PBL	Project-Based Learning	Teaching Method	The class uses PBL .
PjBL	Project-Based Learning (alternate abbreviation)	Teaching Method	The school uses PjBL across multiple subjects.
PrBL	Problem-Based Learning, focused on solving open-ended problems	Teaching Method	Students engage in PrBL activities in science class.
SEI	Structured English Immersion, an approach where instruction is delivered primarily in English with strategies to support language development	Language Support	The teacher used SEI strategies to make grade-level content understandable in English.
SEL	Social and Emotional Learning, an instructional approach that develops students' self-awareness, relationship skills, and emotional regulation	Learning Program	Students learned self-regulation techniques in their SEL class.

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Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
SIOP	Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol	Language Support	Teachers use SIOP strategies.
SLO	Student Learning Objective	Assessment	Teachers track SLO progress.
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Math	Learning Program	The school promotes STEM.
STEAM	STEM with Arts	Learning Program	Students engage in STEAM projects.
TWI	Two-Way Immersion, a type of dual language program that includes both native English speakers and native speakers of another language learning together	Learning Program	In the TWI classroom, English and Spanish speakers learn together using both languages daily.
UDL	Universal Design for Learning	Learning Program	Lessons follow UDL principles developed by CAST (Center for Applied Special Technology).
WBL	Work-Based Learning, connecting classroom learning to real-world work experience	Learning Program	Students participate in WBL through internships.
ZPD	Zone of Proximal Development	Learning Theory	Lessons target the student's ZPD.

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Family Engagement, Committees, and Liaison Acronyms (A–Z)

Acronym	Description	Category	Use case
BOE	Board of Education, governing body that sets district policy, approves budgets, and oversees leadership	School Planning, Funding, and Compliance	The BOE approved the district budget.
CBOC	Community-Based Oversight Committee, group that monitors how district funds, such as bond measures, are spent	School Planning, Funding, and Compliance	The CBOC reviews expenditures from recent bond projects.
CIC	Campus Improvement Committee, school-level group that reviews data and helps develop and monitor improvement goals	School Improvement Planning	The CIC reviewed student performance data.
CL	Community Liaison, staff member who connects schools with families and community resources and supports outreach efforts	School Operations	The CL helps families access local services.
DAC	District Advisory Committee, district-level group that provides input on programs, policies, and improvement priorities	School Planning, Funding, and Compliance	The DAC reviewed district priorities for the upcoming year.
DEIC	District Educational Improvement Council, oversees district-wide planning and alignment with improvement goals	School Improvement Planning	The DEIC approved updates to the district plan.
DELAC	District English Learner Advisory Committee, advises on services and programs for multilingual learners at the district level	School Planning, Funding, and Compliance	DELAC reviews district programs for multilingual learners.
ELAC	English Learner Advisory Committee, school-level group that provides input on services and support for English learners	School Planning, Funding, and Compliance	ELAC provides input on services for English learners.
FAC	Facilities Advisory Committee, advises on school buildings, maintenance needs, and capital improvement projects	School Planning, Funding, and Compliance	The FAC reviewed campus renovation plans.
FACE	Family and Community Engagement, office or initiative focused on strengthening partnerships between schools, families, and the community	School Operations	The FACE team supports outreach to families.
FEC	Family Engagement Coordinator, staff member responsible for organizing family outreach, events, and communication efforts	School Operations	The FEC is organizing a parent workshop.
HB	Homeless Education designation under McKinney-Vento, often used in roles supporting students experiencing housing instability	School Planning, Funding, and Compliance	The HB coordinator supports eligible students.

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Acronym	Description	Category	Use case
ILT	Instructional Leadership Team, group of school leaders and teachers focused on improving instruction and curriculum alignment	Academic Programs	The ILT reviews instructional strategies.
LPC	Long-Range Planning Committee, focuses on enrollment trends, facilities planning, and future district needs	School Planning, Funding, and Compliance	The LPC discussed future campus expansion.
LSC	Local School Council, governing body in some districts that includes parents and community members in school-level decision-making	School Planning, Funding, and Compliance	The LSC participates in school governance decisions.
PAC	Parent Advisory Committee, group of parents who provide feedback and input on school programs and initiatives	School Operations	The PAC meets to discuss school programs.
PBIS	Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, framework and team that promotes positive behavior and supports school climate	School Operations	The PBIS team tracks behavior data.
PIC	Parent Involvement Coordinator, staff member who supports family engagement activities, often connected to Title I programs	School Planning, Funding, and Compliance	The PIC shared updates on family engagement events.
PTA	Parent Teacher Association, national organization that supports schools through volunteering, advocacy, and fundraising	School Operations	The PTA organized the fundraiser.
PTO	Parent Teacher Organization, school-based parent group similar to PTA but independently operated	School Operations	The PTO coordinates volunteer efforts.
SAC	School Advisory Council, committee that advises school leadership on policies, goals, and improvement efforts	School Planning, Funding, and Compliance	The SAC reviews school policies.
SBDM	Site-Based Decision Making, committee structure that allows school-level input on policies, curriculum, and operations	School Planning, Funding, and Compliance	The SBDM approved curriculum updates.
SHAC	School Health Advisory Council, advises districts on health education, wellness policies, and student well-being programs	School Planning, Funding, and Compliance	The SHAC reviewed updates to the health curriculum.
SIT	School Improvement Team, group responsible for implementing and monitoring school improvement strategies	School Improvement Planning	The SIT monitors progress on school goals.
SSC	School Site Council, committee that oversees school plans, budgets, and compliance requirements in certain states	School Planning, Funding, and Compliance	The SSC oversees school plans and budgets.

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Major U.S. K–12 Education Laws (Historical Overview)

Law Acronym	Year Passed	Definition of the Law	Category	To Note	Use example
CRA	1964	Civil Rights Act, a federal law establishing protections against discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in federally funded programs	Civil Rights Law	Foundation for federal nondiscrimination requirements in education.	Schools must ensure equal access to programs and services under CRA protections.
ESEA	1965	Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the foundational federal law establishing funding and support for K–12 education programs	Federal Education Law	Reauthorized multiple times; current version is ESSA (2015).	Federal education funding and programs are structured under ESEA.
Title I	1965	Title I, Part A (ESEA), a federal funding program supporting schools with high percentages of low-income students	Federal Funding Law	Core equity-focused funding stream under ESEA.	The school uses Title I funds to provide additional academic support.
Title II	2015	Title II, Part A (ESEA), a federal funding program focused on teacher and staff development and effectiveness	Federal Funding Law	Current structure defined under ESSA.	The district uses Title II funds for professional development.
Title III	2015	Title III, Part A (ESEA), a federal funding program supporting English learners and language instruction programs	Federal Funding Law	Supports language acquisition and multilingual communication.	The district uses Title III funds to support multilingual learners.
Title IV	2015	Title IV, Part A (ESEA), a federal funding program supporting student enrichment, well-rounded education, and safe and healthy schools	Federal Funding Law	Expanded under ESSA to support whole-child initiatives.	The school uses Title IV funds for student support programs.
Title IX	1972	Title IX of the Education Amendments, a federal law establishing protections against sex-based discrimination in education programs and activities	Civil Rights Law	Enforced by OCR.	Schools must comply with Title IX in athletics, programs, and student protections.
Section 504	1973	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, a federal civil rights law establishing protections and	Civil Rights Law	Broader than IDEA; applies to	Schools provide accommodations

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Law Acronym	Year Passed	Definition of the Law	Category	To Note	Use example
		accommodations for individuals with disabilities in federally funded programs		any qualifying disability.	through Section 504 plans.
FERPA	1974	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, a federal law establishing privacy rights for student education records and access for parents	Student Privacy Law	Governs data sharing and parent access.	Schools must protect and manage access to student records under FERPA.
EHA	1975	Education for All Handicapped Children Act, a federal law establishing the right to a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities (later reauthorized as IDEA)	Special Education Law	Predecessor to IDEA.	This law laid the foundation for modern special education services.
MVA	1987	McKinney-Vento Act, a federal law establishing educational access and stability protections for students experiencing homelessness	Student Support Law	Ensures school of origin stability.	Schools must provide enrollment and transportation support under MVA.
ADA	1990	Americans with Disabilities Act, a federal law establishing accessibility requirements and protections for individuals with disabilities in public services	Civil Rights Law	Applies beyond education to all public services.	Schools must ensure facilities and programs are accessible under ADA.
IDEA	1990	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, a federal law establishing special education services and individualized planning for students with disabilities	Special Education Law	Requires IEPs and procedural safeguards.	Schools develop and implement IEPs under IDEA.
NCLB	2001	No Child Left Behind Act, a federal law establishing nationwide accountability requirements based on standardized testing and school performance	Federal Education Law	Replaced by ESSA in 2015.	Schools were required to meet performance targets and implement improvement plans under NCLB.
ESSA	2015	Every Student Succeeds Act, a federal law reauthorizing ESEA and establishing a more flexible, state-led approach to accountability and school improvement	Federal Education Law	Current governing framework under ESEA.	States set accountability systems and oversee school improvement under ESSA.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

National Education Organizations (A–Z)

Acronym	Name	Type	Use example
AASA	American Association of School Administrators	Organization	AASA supports school system leaders with advocacy and professional resources.
AMI	Association Montessori Internationale	Organization	AMI supports authentic Montessori education and teacher certification worldwide.
AMS	American Montessori Society	Organization	AMS provides teacher training, accreditation, and resources for Montessori schools.
CASE	Council of Administrators of Special Education	Organization	CASE supports leadership and administration in special education programs.
CEC	Council for Exceptional Children	Organization	CEC provides professional development and advocacy for special education teachers.
COPAA	Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates	Organization	COPAA helps families advocate for students with disabilities.
ED	U.S. Department of Education, the federal agency responsible for national education policy, funding programs, and civil rights enforcement in schools	Government Agency	The district follows guidance from ED on federal education programs and compliance requirements.
IB	International Baccalaureate, an organization that provides globally recognized academic programs for K–12 students	Organization	The school offers IB programs to provide an internationally focused curriculum.
EMA	Enrollment Management Association, an organization that supports independent schools with enrollment, admissions, and marketing strategies	Organization	Independent schools may use EMA resources to guide admissions and enrollment planning.
MACTE	Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education, an organization that accredits Montessori teacher training programs in the United States	Organization	Montessori teacher education programs may be accredited by MACTE.
NAEYC	National Association for the Education of Young Children	Organization	NAEYC sets standards and accreditation for early childhood education programs.
NAFSCE	National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement	Organization	NAFSCE promotes family engagement practices in education.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Acronym	Name	Type	Use example
NCFL	National Center for Families Learning	Organization	NCFL develops family literacy programs for children and families.
NCEA	National Catholic Educational Association, an organization that supports Catholic schools through leadership, research, and professional development	Organization	Catholic schools may work with NCEA for resources and national guidance.
NEA	National Education Association, the largest labor union representing public school educators in the United States	Organization	Teachers may be members of the NEA for professional support and advocacy.
NFI	National Fatherhood Initiative	Organization	NFI promotes father involvement in children's education and development.
NIEER	National Institute for Early Education Research	Organization	NIEER conducts research on early childhood education policy and program effectiveness.
OCR	Office for Civil Rights, a division of the U.S. Department of Education that enforces federal civil rights laws in schools	Government Agency	Schools must follow OCR guidance to ensure students are not discriminated against.
ZERO TO THREE	ZERO TO THREE, a nonprofit focused on early childhood development from birth to age three	Organization	ZERO TO THREE provides resources on early learning and child development.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

School Planning, Compliance, and Policy Acronyms (A–Z)

Acronym	Definition	Category	Example use
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act (law requiring accessibility and equal access)	Compliance	The school follows ADA.
AUP	Acceptable Use Policy, guidelines that define how students and staff may use school technology and internet access	School Policy / Technology	Students and their parents/guardians must sign the AUP before students receive device access.
CAN-SPAM	Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act (law governing email communication and opt-out requirements)	Communication Compliance	School emails must comply with CAN-SPAM, including providing unsubscribe options.
CIP	Campus Improvement Plan (campus-level plan used to set goals and guide school improvement efforts)	Planning	The CIP includes academic goals.
COPPA	Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (law regulating student data collection online)	Compliance	The app complies with COPPA.
CSIP	Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (broader plan including academics, operations, and climate)	Planning	The CSIP outlines strategies.
ESEA	Elementary and Secondary Education Act (federal law governing K–12 education programs and funding in the United States) Note: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is the original federal education law passed in 1965. It has been updated several times over the years. The current version is called the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). It passed in 2015.	Federal Policy	Title I is part of ESEA and supports schools serving low-income students.
ESSA	Every Student Succeeds Act (federal law governing accountability and school performance)	Federal Policy	The district follows ESSA.
FCC	Federal Communications Commission (agency regulating communication systems including phone and messaging)	Regulatory Agency	The FCC enforces communication rules.
FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (law protecting student records and privacy)	Compliance	FERPA protects records.
OCR	The Office for Civil Rights	Compliance	OCR investigates complaints.
PPRA	Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (law governing student surveys and sensitive information)	Compliance	Surveys follow PPRA.
RUP	Responsible Use Policy, an alternative term for Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)	School Policy / Technology	Some schools refer to their device usage agreement as a RUP instead of an AUP.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Acronym	Definition	Category	Example use
SBDM	Site-Based Decision Making (a governance model where school-level teams make decisions about policies, budgets, and instruction)	School Governance / Policy	The SBDM council meets to review school priorities, with staff and parent representatives providing input on budget and instructional decisions.
SCEP	School Comprehensive Education Plan (state-required plan including academic and support strategies)	Planning	The SCEP includes school goals.
SCP	School Climate Plan (plan focused on improving school culture, safety, and environment)	Planning	The school developed an SCP.
SEA	State Education Agency , the state-level body responsible for overseeing public education and implementing federal and state policies	Governance	The SEA sets state policy.
SIP	School Improvement Plan (a school-level plan outlining goals and strategies to improve student outcomes; required for underperforming schools and commonly required across public schools)	Planning	The SIP outlines improvement goals.
TCPA	Telephone Consumer Protection Act (law regulating calls and text messages, requiring consent for automated messaging)	Communication Compliance	Under TCPA, schools must obtain consent before sending automated text messages or calls.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

School Improvement Planning Acronyms

Acronym	Description	Category	Use example
SIP	School Improvement Plan (state-required school-level plan outlining goals, strategies, and actions to improve student outcomes; commonly used across many states including Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee)	Planning / Compliance	The school's SIP includes strategies to strengthen family engagement.
LCAP	Local Control and Accountability Plan (California's planning framework linking goals, funding, and stakeholder engagement across districts and schools)	Planning / Compliance	The district's LCAP outlines goals for improving student outcomes and family engagement.
MICIP	Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (Michigan's statewide framework guiding schools through a continuous improvement cycle of assess, plan, implement, and evaluate)	Planning / Compliance	The school uses MICIP to guide its improvement planning and stakeholder engagement.
One Plan	Consolidated Improvement Plan (Ohio's unified planning process that combines multiple funding and improvement requirements into one plan)	Planning / Compliance	The district completes the One Plan to align improvement strategies across programs.
SCEP	School Comprehensive Education Plan (New York's required school improvement plan for identified schools, including goals, strategies, and stakeholder involvement)	Planning / Compliance	The school developed its SCEP to address performance gaps and improve engagement.
TIP	Texas Improvement Plan (Texas-required improvement plan for identified schools, including needs assessment, strategies, and monitoring)	Planning / Compliance	The school's TIP includes actions to improve attendance and family communication.
Title I	Federal funding program under ESEA supporting schools with high percentages of low-income students, including requirements for family engagement planning	Federal Programs	Title I requires schools to develop and implement a family engagement plan.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

School Funding Programs and Grants (A–Z)

Acronym	Description	Category	Use case
21st CCLC	21st Century Community Learning Centers (federal funding program supporting after-school and extended learning programs)	Federal Funding	The school offers after-school programs funded by 21st CCLC.
ADA (Funding)	Average Daily Attendance (student attendance measure used in some states, such as Texas, to determine school funding levels). Calculated as: Sum of Attendance Counts ÷ Days of Instruction. Note that WADA is	State Funding	ADA impacts how much funding the school receives.
ADM	Average Daily Membership (student enrollment count used by many states to calculate school funding allocations)	State Funding	ADM is used to determine district funding levels.
CEP	Community Eligibility Provision (federal program allowing schools to provide free meals to all students without collecting applications)	Federal Program	The school uses CEP to provide free meals to all students.
ESEA	Elementary and Secondary Education Act (federal law that authorizes major K–12 funding programs, including Title I–IV)	Federal Law / Funding	The district receives ESEA funds to support multiple education programs.
ESSER	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (federal COVID-19 relief funding provided to support schools and learning recovery)	Federal Funding	The district used ESSER funds to upgrade technology and support instruction.
FR	Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (a federal meal program that provides free or reduced-cost meals to students based on household income; widely used by schools as an indicator for funding eligibility and economic need)	Federal Program	The school uses FRL data to determine eligibility for meal programs and to identify students and campuses that may qualify for additional funding and support.
GEER	Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (state-administered federal emergency funding to support education during COVID-19 disruptions)	Federal Funding	GEER funds supported remote learning initiatives.
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (federal law that provides funding to support special education services for eligible students)	Federal Funding / Special Education	IDEA funds support special education staffing and services.
NSLP	National School Lunch Program (federal program that provides free or reduced-price meals to eligible students)	Federal Program	Students qualify for meals through the NSLP.
SBP	School Breakfast Program (federal program that provides breakfast to students, often at free or reduced cost)	Federal Program	The school participates in the SBP to support student nutrition.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Acronym	Description	Category	Use case
SIG	School Improvement Grant (federal program active primarily 2009–2015 that funded turnaround efforts in the lowest-performing schools, later replaced under ESSA by Title I Section 1003 funds)	Federal Program / School Improvement	The district received SIG funding to implement turnaround strategies.
SWP	Schoolwide Program (Title I model allowing schools to use federal funds to support all students in eligible schools)	Federal Funding	The school operates as a SWP to support all students.
TAS	Targeted Assistance School (Title I model where services are provided only to identified students who need additional support)	Federal Funding	The school uses a TAS model to support selected students.
Title I	Federal funding program supporting schools with high percentages of low-income students to improve academic outcomes	Federal Funding	Title I funds support additional academic services for students.
Title II	Federal funding program that supports teacher training, recruitment, and professional development	Federal Funding	Title II funds are used for teacher training and support.
Title III	Federal funding program that supports multilingual learners and language instruction programs	Federal Funding	Title III funding supports services for multilingual learners.
Title IV	Federal funding program that supports well-rounded education, safe schools, and student support services	Federal Funding	Title IV funds support counseling and enrichment programs.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Federal Reporting & Accountability Acronyms in Education (A–Z)

Acronym	Definition	Category	Example
ACGR	Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate, the federally required method for calculating high school graduation rates	Assessment / Accountability	The district reported its ACGR in the annual performance report.
CSPR	Consolidated State Performance Report, a federal report submitted by states on education programs and outcomes	Compliance / Reporting	Data from multiple programs is compiled into the CSPR each year.
CRDC	Civil Rights Data Collection, a national dataset on equity and access in schools collected by the U.S. Department of Education	Compliance / Equity	The district reviewed CRDC data to assess disparities.
EDGAR	Education Department General Administrative Regulations, federal rules governing education grants	Policy / Compliance	Funding requirements are outlined in EDGAR.
GEPA	General Education Provisions Act, federal law governing education program administration	Federal Law	GEPA applies to most federally funded education programs.
MOE	Maintenance of Effort, a requirement that districts maintain consistent funding levels to receive federal aid	School Finance / Compliance	The district met MOE requirements to retain funding.
NAEP	National Assessment of Educational Progress, a nationwide assessment often called the “Nation’s Report Card”	Assessment	NAEP results provide a national comparison of student performance.
REAP	Rural Education Achievement Program, federal funding designed to support rural districts	Federal Programs	The district qualified for REAP funding.
SLDS	Statewide Longitudinal Data System, a system used to track student data over time	Data Systems	The SLDS helps monitor long-term student outcomes.
SPP	State Performance Plan, a required plan outlining how states improve special education outcomes	Special Education	The state updates its SPP annually.
AMAO	Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives, targets for English learner progress under federal programs	Federal Programs	Schools monitored AMAO targets for language development.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Teacher Professional Development Acronyms (A–Z)

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
PD	Professional Development, structured learning opportunities for educators to improve teaching practice	Instructional Frameworks and Program Models	The teacher attended PD on differentiated instruction.
CPD	Continuing Professional Development, ongoing learning activities that support teacher growth beyond initial certification	Instructional Frameworks and Program Models	The district requires CPD hours each semester.
CPE	Continuing Professional Education, required training hours for maintaining educator certification in some states	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	Teachers must complete CPE hours each year.
CEU	Continuing Education Unit, credit earned for completing approved professional development activities	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The workshop provided CEUs for certification renewal.
PLC	Professional Learning Community, group of educators who collaborate regularly to improve instruction and student outcomes	Instructional Frameworks and Program Models	The PLC focused on improving reading strategies.
PLN	Professional Learning Network, informal network of educators who share resources and ideas, often online	Instructional Frameworks and Program Models	She expanded her PLN through online educator groups.
PDP	Professional Development Plan, individualized plan outlining a teacher's learning goals and growth areas	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The teacher updated her PDP with new goals.
IPDP	Individual Professional Development Plan, formal version of a teacher's growth plan used in some states or districts	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The teacher submitted her IPDP for review.
INSET	In-Service Training, scheduled professional development days during the school year	Instructional Frameworks and Program Models	The school held an INSET day before the semester started.
LMS	Learning Management System, digital platform used to deliver training, courses, and instructional content	School Communication and EdTech	The PD modules are available in the LMS.
UDL	Universal Design for Learning, instructional framework that helps teachers design lessons accessible to all learners	Instructional Frameworks and Program Models	The teacher applied UDL strategies after the training.
DI	Differentiated Instruction, teaching approach that adapts content and methods to meet diverse student needs	Instructional Frameworks and Program Models	The PD session focused on DI strategies for mixed-ability classrooms.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
SIOP	Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol, framework used to support instruction for English learners	Instructional Frameworks and Program Models	The teacher used SIOP strategies introduced during PD.
AVID	Advancement Via Individual Determination, college readiness program that includes teacher training and instructional strategies	Academic Programs	Teachers attended AVID training over the summer.
NBCT	National Board-Certified Teacher, designation earned through advanced certification demonstrating accomplished teaching practice	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The district recognized several NBCT teachers this year.
ESL PD	English as a Second Language Professional Development, training focused on supporting multilingual learners	Academic Programs	The teacher completed ESL PD to better support language learners.
GT PD	Gifted and Talented Professional Development, training focused on meeting the needs of advanced learners	Academic Programs	Teachers are required to complete GT PD hours annually.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Education Technology Acronyms (A–Z)

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use example
AAD	Azure Active Directory (now Microsoft Entra ID), cloud-based identity service used for authentication and access control	Security	The district manages authentication through AAD.
AD	Active Directory, directory service used to manage users, devices, and permissions in a network	Security	Staff accounts are managed in AD.
API	Application Programming Interface, enables systems such as SIS, LMS, and communication platforms to exchange data	Technology	The platform uses an API to sync roster data.
CMS	A content management system (CMS) is an integrated software that helps users create and manage digital content.	Technology	I create new web pages by using the CMS.
CSV	Comma-Separated Values, file format used for bulk data import and export between systems	Technology	Data is uploaded using a CSV file.
Ed-Fi	Ed-Fi data standard used to integrate and unify education data across systems	Technology	The SIS integrates using Ed-Fi standards.
GAM	Google Apps Manager, command-line tool used to manage users and settings in Google Workspace	Technology	IT uses GAM to automate account management.
GCDS	Google Cloud Directory Sync, tool used to sync directory data from Active Directory to Google Workspace	Technology	GCDS syncs staff accounts nightly.
GC	Google Classroom, platform used for assignments, communication, and classroom management	Academic Technology	Teachers post assignments in GC.
IAM	Identity and Access Management, framework for managing user identities and permissions across systems	Security	IAM controls access to school systems.
IdP	Identity Provider, system that authenticates users for access to applications through SSO	Security	The district uses an IdP for authentication.
LMS	Learning Management System, platform used for managing coursework, assignments, and communication	Academic Technology	Teachers manage coursework in the LMS.
LTI	Learning Tools Interoperability, standard that allows third-party tools to integrate with LMS platforms	Technology	LTI connects tools to the LMS.
M365	Microsoft 365, suite of productivity and collaboration tools used by schools	Technology	Staff collaborate using M365.
MDM	Mobile Device Management, system used to manage, secure, and monitor school-issued devices	Technology	Devices are controlled through MDM.
MFA	Multi-Factor Authentication, security method requiring additional verification for login	Security	MFA provides added security to school communication.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use example
MMS	Multimedia Messaging Service, messaging format that supports images and media but is less reliable and typically not recommended for school-wide communication	Communication	MMS messages may not be consistently delivered to all recipients.
QR	Quick Response code	Technology	Parents scan a QR code to get an access link to the group page.
RFI	Request for Information, process used to gather details from vendors before procurement	Procurement	The district issued an RFI to explore solutions.
RFP	Request for Proposal, formal process used to evaluate and select vendors	Procurement	The district released an RFP for a communication platform.
RFQ	Request for Quote, process used to obtain pricing from vendors	Procurement	Vendors responded to the RFQ with pricing.
SaaS	Software as a Service	Technology	The platform is SaaS-based.
SAML	Security Assertion Markup Language, an authentication protocol used to enable Single Sign-On (SSO) across multiple systems without requiring separate credentials.	Identity Management / Automation	The district uses SAML to enable SSO across the SIS, LMS, and communication platform.
SCIM	System for Cross-domain Identity Management, an open standard used to automate user provisioning, updates, and deprovisioning between an identity provider (IdP) and connected systems.	Identity Management / Automation	The district uses SCIM to sync user accounts from the IdP to the LMS and SIS.
SDS	School Data Sync, Microsoft tool that syncs SIS data with Microsoft 365 systems	Technology	SDS syncs student rosters into the system.
SFTP	Secure File Transfer Protocol, used for securely transferring data between systems	Technology	Data exports are transferred via SFTP.
SIS	Student Information System, central system for managing student data such as enrollment, attendance, and grades	Technology	The SIS serves as the system of record.
SMS	Short Message Service, text messaging used for school alerts and communication	Communication	The system sends alerts via SMS.
SSO	Single Sign-On, authentication method allowing access to multiple systems with one login	Security	Users access systems through SSO.
TOS	Terms of Service, agreement outlining platform usage, data handling, and responsibilities	Compliance	The district reviewed the vendor's TOS.
TTS	Text-to-Speech, technology that converts written communication into voice messages	Communication Technology	The system uses TTS for voice messages.
UGC	User Generated Content	Technology	We can translate parent's UGC content by using AI.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

K–12 Athletics Acronyms (A–Z)

Acronym	Description	Category	Use case
AD	Athletic Director, oversees school sports programs	Athletics Operations	The AD shared an update about the game schedule.
ATH	Athlete (multi-position designation in some sports)	Athletics Programs	The player is listed as an ATH on the roster.
CIF	California Interscholastic Federation, governs high school athletics in California	Athletics Governance	The team advanced to CIF playoffs.
DNP	Did Not Play	Athletics Operations	The student was marked as DNP for the game.
ECNL	Elite Clubs National League, a competitive youth league often referenced in school athletics	Athletics Programs	Several players also compete in ECNL.
ELIG	Eligibility status for participation	Athletics Operations	Students must maintain ELIG to compete.
FHSAA	Florida High School Athletic Association	Athletics Governance	FHSAA rules apply to postseason eligibility.
GHSA	Georgia High School Association	Athletics Governance	The school follows GHSA guidelines.
GP	Games Played	Athletics Metrics	The athlete has 10 GP this season.
HSAA	High School Athletic Association (general term used by states)	Athletics Governance	The HSAA sets competition rules.
IHSA	Illinois High School Association	Athletics Governance	IHSA regulations apply to the tournament.
ISL	Independent School League (private school league, varies by state)	Athletics Governance	The team competes in the ISL.
JV	Junior Varsity, secondary-level team	Athletics Programs	The student plays on the JV team.
MAPL	Mid-Atlantic Prep League, private school athletic league	Athletics Governance	The school participates in MAPL events.
NCAA	National Collegiate Athletic Association, referenced in recruiting	Athletics Governance	Coaches discussed NCAA requirements.
NCISAA	North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association	Athletics Governance	The team qualified for NCISAA playoffs.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Acronym	Description	Category	Use case
NEPSAC	New England Preparatory School Athletic Council	Athletics Governance	NEPSAC oversees postseason play.
NFHS	National Federation of State High School Associations	Athletics Governance	NFHS rules guide officiating.
NIL	Name, Image, and Likeness rights for athletes	Athletics Governance	Seniors attended a session on NIL opportunities.
PB	Personal Best	Athletics Metrics	She achieved a PB in the race.
PHYS	Required sports physical clearance	Athletics Operations	A current PHYS form is required before tryouts.
PR	Personal Record	Athletics Metrics	He set a PR in the 200 meters.
PTS	Points scored	Athletics Metrics	She scored 18 PTS in the game.
RBI s	Runs Batted In (baseball/softball)	Athletics Metrics	The player recorded 3 RBIs.
ROSTER	Official team list of players	Athletics Operations	The final roster will be posted Friday.
SB	Stolen Bases (baseball/softball)	Athletics Metrics	She had 2 SB in the game.
SEC	Southeastern Conference, often referenced in recruiting	Athletics Governance	The athlete committed to an SEC school.
SOS	Strength of Schedule	Athletics Metrics	The team improved its SOS this season.
SPC	Southwest Preparatory Conference, private school league in Texas	Athletics Governance	The team competes in the SPC.
TAPPS	Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools	Athletics Governance	TAPPS rules apply to eligibility.
TBD	To Be Determined	Athletics Operations	The game time is TBD.
TCAL	Texas Christian Athletic League, supports smaller private schools	Athletics Governance	The school joined TCAL for competition.
UIL	University Interscholastic League, governs public school athletics in Texas	Athletics Governance	UIL rules apply across the district.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Acronym	Description	Category	Use case
V	Varsity, primary competitive team	Athletics Programs	She earned a varsity position.
VISAA	Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association	Athletics Governance	VISAA determines playoff eligibility.
W-L	Win-Loss record	Athletics Metrics	The team has an 8–2 W-L record.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

California K–12 School Acronyms (A–Z)

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
ACSA	Association of California School Administrators (ACSA).	Organization	ACSA is the largest umbrella organization for school leaders in the United States.
CAC	Community Advisory Committee, a required group within SELPAs that provides input from families and community members on special education services and priorities	Family Engagement, Committees, and Liaison	The SELPA CAC reviewed parent feedback on special education services.
CAASPP	California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, statewide testing system measuring student achievement	Assessment Metrics	Students participate in CAASPP testing each spring.
CALPADS	California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System, statewide system used to collect and report student data for funding, accountability, and compliance	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The district submits enrollment and program data to CALPADS.
CAIS	California Association of Independent Schools, accrediting and support organization for independent schools in California	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The school is accredited through CAIS.
CAPSO	California Association of Private School Organizations, group representing private schools in state policy and advocacy	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	CAPSO provides guidance on private school regulations.
CDE	California Department of Education, state agency overseeing public education	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The CDE provides guidance on curriculum and accountability.
COE	County Office of Education, regional agencies that support districts and provide services	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The COE offers professional development for educators.
DELAC	District English Learner Advisory Committee, required district-level committee advising on services for English learners	Family Engagement, Committees, and Liaison	DELAC reviews programs supporting multilingual students.
DIS	Designated Instruction and Services, now commonly referred to as related services, includes supports such as speech therapy, counseling, or occupational therapy provided through an IEP	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student receives DIS services as part of the IEP.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
ELAC	English Learner Advisory Committee, school-level group advising on English learner programs	Family Engagement, Committees, and Liaison	ELAC provides input on services for English learners.
ELD	English Language Development, California standards and instruction for English learners	Academic Programs	Teachers integrate ELD standards into instruction.
ELPAC	English Language Proficiency Assessments for California, test used to assess English learner proficiency	Assessment Metrics	Students take the ELPAC to measure language development.
GATE	Gifted and Talented Education, term commonly used in California to describe programs and services for advanced learners, including identification, enrichment, and accelerated instruction	Academic Programs	The district offers a GATE program to support advanced learners with enrichment and accelerated coursework.
LCAP	Local Control and Accountability Plan, required plan outlining district goals, actions, and spending	School Improvement Planning	The district shared its LCAP with families for feedback.
LCFF	Local Control Funding Formula, California's funding system based on student needs	School Funding Programs and Grants	The district receives additional LCFF funding for high-need students.
NPA	Nonpublic Agency, a certified private provider that delivers specialized services such as therapy or behavioral support to students with disabilities	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The district contracted an NPA to provide behavioral services.
NPS	Nonpublic School, a private school placement used when a public school cannot meet a student's needs as outlined in the IEP	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The IEP team considered an NPS placement for the student.
OAH	Office of Administrative Hearings, the California agency that handles special education due process hearings and legal disputes between families and school districts	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The case was filed with OAH for a due process hearing.
PSA	Private School Affidavit, required annual filing for private schools in California	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The school submitted its PSA to the state.
RSP	Resource Specialist Program, a service model where students receive targeted academic support from a resource specialist teacher for part of the day	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student receives reading support through RSP services.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
SAI	Specialized Academic Instruction, individualized instruction provided to students with disabilities to support access to the general education curriculum	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student receives SAI for math and writing support.
SARC	School Accountability Report Card, annual report providing school performance data	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	Parents can review the SARC for school information.
SELPA	Special Education Local Plan Area, regional consortium coordinating special education services	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The district works with its SELPA to deliver services.
SPSA	Single Plan for Student Achievement, required school-level improvement plan	School Improvement Planning	The SPSA outlines goals and actions for student success.
SSC	School Site Council, committee that oversees school plans and budgets	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The SSC approved the school's SPSA.
WASC	Western Association of Schools and Colleges, regional accrediting body used widely by California schools	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The school is preparing for its WASC accreditation review.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Florida K–12 School Acronyms (A–Z)

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use example
A–F School Grades	Florida’s accountability system assigning letter grades based on student performance and growth	Assessment / Accountability	The school received an A grade.
B.E.S.T.	Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking, Florida’s academic standards for English language arts and math	State Learning Standards	The curriculum aligns with B.E.S.T. standards.
CPALMS	Collaborate, Plan, Align, Learn, Motivate, Share, Florida’s official platform providing access to standards, resources, and instructional tools	State Learning Standards	Teachers use CPALMS to find aligned instructional resources.
EOC	End-of-Course Exam, state-required assessment given after specific high school courses	Assessment	Students must pass the Algebra 1 EOC to graduate.
EP	Educational Plan, a plan used in Florida for gifted students outlining services and goals	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student has an EP for gifted services.
ESA	Education Savings Account, funding model allowing families to use public funds for approved educational expenses	School Funding Programs and Grants	Families use ESA funds for tuition and services.
ESE	Exceptional Student Education, Florida’s term for special education services and programs	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The student receives services through ESE.
FACCS	Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, accrediting body for Christian schools in Florida	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The school maintains FACCS accreditation.
FAESP	Florida Association of Elementary School Principals, organization supporting elementary school leaders	School Operations	The principal participates in FAESP training.
FAIR-FS	Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading – Florida Standards, reading assessment system used to monitor student progress and guide instruction	Assessment / Academic Programs	Students are assessed using FAIR-FS to track reading development.
FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education, legal requirement ensuring students with disabilities receive appropriate services at no cost	Special Education Programs and Student Support	Services are provided under FAPE.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use example
FASA	Florida Association of School Administrators, organization supporting school leaders through advocacy and leadership development	School Operations	The principal attended a FASA conference.
FASSP	Florida Association of Secondary School Principals, organization supporting middle and high school leaders	School Operations	The principal attended a FASSP event.
FAST	Florida Assessment of Student Thinking, statewide assessment system aligned to B.E.S.T. standards	Assessment	Students take FAST assessments during the school year.
FCIS	Florida Council of Independent Schools, accrediting and membership organization for independent private schools	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The school is accredited through FCIS.
FCTA	Florida Classroom Teachers Association, professional organization representing teachers with advocacy and legal support	School Operations	Teachers receive support through FCTA.
FDOE	Florida Department of Education, the state agency responsible for overseeing public education, standards, accountability, and funding	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The FDOE provides guidance on statewide requirements.
FEA	Florida Education Association, statewide teachers' union advocating for educators and public education policy	School Operations	The FEA advocates for teacher support.
FEFP	Florida Education Finance Program, the primary formula used to allocate state funding to school districts based on enrollment and student needs	School Funding Programs and Grants	District funding is calculated through FEFP.
FES	Family Empowerment Scholarship, state-funded scholarship program supporting school choice including private and specialized education options	School Funding Programs and Grants	The student qualifies for FES funding.
FHSAA	Florida High School Athletic Association, governing body for interscholastic athletics across public and many private schools	Athletics Governance	The school follows FHSAA eligibility rules.
FPCO	Florida Private Schools Coalition, organization advocating for private school policy and interests	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The school participates in FPCO advocacy efforts.
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent, a student enrollment measure used in Florida to determine funding allocations	School Funding Programs and Grants	Funding is based on FTE counts.
FTC	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship, program providing scholarships for students to attend private schools	School Funding Programs and Grants	The student receives an FTC scholarship.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use example
IEP	Individualized Education Program, a legally required plan outlining services and goals for students with disabilities	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The IEP outlines the student's accommodations.
Just Read, Florida!	Statewide reading initiative focused on improving literacy outcomes through evidence-based instruction and early intervention	Academic Programs	Schools implement Just Read, Florida! strategies to support early literacy.
MTSS	Multi-Tiered System of Supports, framework used to provide academic and behavioral support at multiple levels	Student Support	The MTSS team reviewed the student's progress.
NGSSS	Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, Florida's previous academic standards still referenced in legacy curriculum and materials	State Learning Standards	Some older materials are aligned to NGSSS.
PBIS	Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, framework used to promote positive behavior and improve school climate	Student Support	The school implements PBIS to support behavior.
PMRN	Progress Monitoring and Reporting Network, Florida's system used to track student reading progress and assessment data	Assessment / Academic Programs	Teachers use PMRN to monitor student reading growth.
SAC	School Advisory Council, school-level committee that includes parents, staff, and community members in decision-making	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The SAC reviewed school improvement goals.
SBE	State Board of Education, governing body that sets education policy and adopts standards in Florida	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The SBE approved updates to standards.
SIP	School Improvement Plan, a required plan outlining goals and strategies to improve student outcomes	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The SIP includes strategies to improve reading scores.
SP&P	Statewide System of School Improvement and Performance, Florida's framework for monitoring school accountability and performance	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	Schools are evaluated under the SP&P framework.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Texas K–12 School Acronyms (A–Z)

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
ADSY	Additional Days School Year, Texas program that provides funding for extending the school year to improve student outcomes	State Funding	The district implemented ADSY to provide extra instructional days.
ARD	Admission, Review, and Dismissal, Texas committee that determines special education services	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The ARD committee met to review the student’s IEP.
ATPE	Association of Texas Professional Educators, organization that provides professional development and advocacy for educators	School Operations	Teachers can access PD resources through ATPE.
ATSI	Additional Targeted Support and Improvement, federal designation used in Texas accountability requiring additional intervention for student group performance	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The district monitored ATSI campuses for progress and compliance.
CCMR	College, Career, and Military Readiness, indicator used in Texas accountability to measure students’ preparedness after high school	Assessment / Accountability	The school improved its CCMR score through dual credit and certifications.
CDC	County-District-Campus number, unique identifier assigned to each Texas school and district for reporting and accountability	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The campus was identified in reports by its CDC number.
CPE	Continuing Professional Education, required training hours for maintaining teacher certification in Texas	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	Teachers must complete CPE hours to renew certification.
CSI	Comprehensive Support and Improvement, federal designation applied within Texas accountability for schools identified for significant improvement	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The campus was identified for CSI and must implement a turnaround plan.
DIP	District Improvement Plan (district-level plan that outlines goals, strategies, and actions to improve student outcomes across all campuses; aligns with state accountability requirements)	Planning / Compliance	The DIP outlines district-wide priorities for improving student achievement.
EB	Emergent Bilingual, term used in Texas to describe students developing English proficiency	Academic Programs	Teachers used EB strategies to support language development.
ELPS	English Language Proficiency Standards, Texas standards guiding instruction for English learners	Academic Programs	Teachers integrate ELPS into daily instruction for multilingual learners.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
EOC	End-of-Course, required Texas high school exams tied to STAAR	Assessment Metrics	Students must pass EOC exams to meet graduation requirements.
ESC	Education Service Center, regional Texas agencies that provide training and support to school districts	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	Teachers attend training sessions through their regional ESC.
FIE	Full Individual Evaluation, comprehensive assessment used in Texas to determine eligibility for special education services	Special Education Programs and Student Support	The school conducted an FIE before determining eligibility for services.
FSP	Foundation School Program (Texas school funding system that determines how state funds are allocated to districts based on attendance, student needs, and program participation)	State Funding	District funding is allocated through the FSP based on ADA and program weights.
IBC	Industry-Based Certification, credential recognized in Texas accountability as part of college and career readiness indicators	Academic Programs / Postsecondary Readiness	Students earned an IBC in welding as part of their program.
ISD	Independent School District, term used in Texas for local public school districts	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	Denton ISD serves students in the local area.
PEIMS	Public Education Information Management System, statewide system used by Texas schools to collect and report student, staff, and financial data for funding, accountability, and compliance School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The district submits attendance, enrollment, and program data through PEIMS.
PKG	Prekindergarten Guidelines, Texas standards outlining learning expectations for Pre-K students	Academic Programs	The curriculum follows Texas PKG for early learning.
PPCD	Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities, a public-school program in Texas that provides special education services to children ages 3–5 with identified disabilities	Special Education (Early Childhood)	The student is enrolled in a PPCD program to receive early intervention and support before entering kindergarten.
SBEC	State Board for Educator Certification, agency that oversees teacher certification in Texas	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	SBEC sets certification requirements for educators.
SHAC	School Health Advisory Council, Texas-required advisory group for health education and wellness policies	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	SHAC reviewed updates to the district's health curriculum.
SHARS	School Health and Related Services, a Texas Medicaid program that reimburses school districts for providing eligible health and	State Program / Funding / Special Education	The district submits SHARS claims to receive Medicaid reimbursement for eligible student services.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
	related services (such as therapy, nursing, and evaluations) to students with disabilities		
STAAR	State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, standardized test used to measure student achievement	Assessment Metrics	Students take the STAAR test each spring.
TAPR	Texas Academic Performance Report, annual report summarizing district and campus performance	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	Parents can review TAPR for school performance data.
TASA	Texas Association of School Administrators, organization providing leadership development and conferences	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The superintendent attended the TASA Midwinter Conference.
TASB	Texas Association of School Boards, organization supporting school board governance and training	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	Board members completed training through TASB.
TASSP	Texas Association of Secondary School Principals, organization supporting secondary school leaders	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The assistant principal attended the TASSP workshop.
TCTA	Texas Classroom Teachers Association, organization providing resources and advocacy for teachers	School Operations	The teacher attended a TCTA workshop.
TEA	Texas Education Agency, state agency overseeing public education in Texas	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	TEA provides guidance on state requirements.
TEC	Texas Education Code, state law governing public education in Texas	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	District policies must align with the Texas Education Code (TEC).
TEFA	Texas Education Freedom Account, state program allowing public funds to be used for approved educational expenses outside traditional public schools. Applications opened February 4, 2026 for 2026–27.	School Funding Programs and Grants	Families can use TEFA funds for tuition and approved services.
TEKS	Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, statewide curriculum standards defining what students should learn	State Standards	Teachers align lessons to TEKS for each subject and grade level.
TELPAS	Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System, assessment used to measure English learner progress in listening, speaking, reading, and writing	Assessment Metrics	Students take TELPAS each year to measure English proficiency growth.
TEPSA	Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association, organization providing training and resources for school leaders	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The principal participated in a TEPSA leadership session.

K12 Education Acronyms

Curated by School Signals

Acronym	Definition	Category	Use case
TPESS	Texas Principal Evaluation and Support System, framework used to evaluate school leaders	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The principal was evaluated using TPESS criteria.
TPRI	Texas Primary Reading Inventory, early literacy assessment used in Texas to measure reading development in K–2 students	Assessment Metrics	Teachers administer TPRI to monitor early reading skills and progress.
TSDS	Texas Student Data System, statewide system for collecting and managing student data	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	Attendance and grades are reported through TSDS.
TSI	Texas Success Initiative (state-required college readiness assessment used to determine whether students are prepared for college-level coursework in reading, writing, and math)	Assessment / Postsecondary Readiness	Students must meet TSI requirements before enrolling in dual credit courses.
TSI (Federal Accountability)	Targeted Support and Improvement, federal designation used in Texas accountability for schools with underperforming student groups	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The school was identified for TSI due to performance gaps among student groups.
T-TESS	Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System, framework used to evaluate and support teacher performance	School Planning, Compliance, and Policy	The teacher received feedback through TTESS observations.