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Glossary of Special Education Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABA	Applied Behavior Analysis	Evidenced-based method of therapy used for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	Federal law that includes IDEA (see below) ensuring rights for kids with IEPs
BCBA	Board Certified Behavior Analyst	Licensed provider of ABA
BIP	Behavior Improvement Plan	Separate document created from FBA that tracks positive and negative behaviors as well as likely causes and known solutions
ESY	Extended School Year	Summer school wherein all IEP services, including services, are offered; must qualify
FAPE	Free Access to Public Education	Federal law that states all additional services outlined in an IEP must be provided at no charge
FBA	Functional Behavior Assessment	Data-gathering tool that examines target behaviors over time and environments looking for causes and possible solutions; must have for BIP
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	Federal law that specifies which diagnoses mandate creation of an IEP
IEP	Individualized Education Plan	Document created after baseline data is gathered reporting current levels of functioning and specific interventions to bridge the gap between qualifying child and typical peers
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment	Legal name for determining proper educational environment; must start from least restrictive
OT	occupational therapy	Specific interventions and activities created to improve sensory issues and physical limitations
SEL	social emotional learning	State-adopted educational standards for grades K-12 self-awareness and social awareness
SLP	speech-language pathologist	Licensed provider of interventions and activities to address speech issues
SW	social worker	Licensed provider of interventions and activities to help emotional regulation and socialization.

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