

## Glossary of Terms in Special Education

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**Accommodations:** Changes in how test is administered that do not substantially alter what the test measures; includes changes in presentation format, response format, test setting or test timing. Appropriate accommodations are made to level the playing field, i.e., to provide equal opportunity to demonstrate knowledge.

**ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.** Legislation enacted to prohibit discrimination based on disability.

**Assessment:** Use of standardized tools by a professional or team of professionals and is used to determine the existence of a delay or disability, to identify the child's strengths and needs in all areas of development.

**Child Find:** Requirement that states ensure that all children with disabilities are identified, located and evaluated, and determine which children are receiving special education and related services.

**Disability:** In Section 504 and ADA, defined as impairment that substantially affects one or more major life activities; an individual who has a record of having such impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment.

**Eligibility:** Also, referred to as qualifying for services. Eligibility is determined by qualified professionals using a standardized assessment tool. Children birth-3 years demonstrate a 25% delay in 1 or more developmental area; Children 3-21 demonstrate a 25% delay in 2 or more developmental areas.

**FAPE:** Free and Appropriate Public Education special education and related services provided in agreement with an IEP; are without charge; and meets standards of the state department of education (OSPI).

**IDEA:** IDEA is the federal law that outlines rights and regulations for students with disabilities. Under IDEA, all children, birth through age 21, are entitled to a Free and Appropriate Public Education

**IEP:** The plan for services that outlines all goals and activities for children ages 3-21, and are updated annually. The IEP includes the child's present levels of functioning, educational needs, goals and outcomes, and services a child will receive in order to make progress on goals.

**IFSP:** The plan for services that outlines all goals and activities for children birth- age 3. IFSPs have a **family** focus, and are updated every 6 months.

**Inclusion:** Early childhood inclusion embodies the values, policies, and practices that support the right of every infant and young child and his or her family, regardless of ability, to participate in a broad range of activities and contexts as full members of families, communities, and society.

**LRE:** Least Restrictive Environment

**Part B:** Special education services for infants and toddlers, from birth to 3, are referred to as Part C. Special education services for preschool and school age children, age 3 through 2.

**Part C:** Special education services for infants and toddlers, from birth to 3

**Procedural Safeguards:** Procedures included in IDEA designed to protect the rights of children with disabilities and their parents.

**Screening:** Activities performed to identify children who may need further evaluation and to determine the potential existence of a delay in development or a particular disability.