

**A Autism**

A developmental disability that significantly affects verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction and that adversely affects educational performance. Characteristics include irregularities and impairments in communication, engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines and unusual responses to sensory experiences. [A.R.S. § 15-761(1)]

**ADC Annual Data Collection**

One of two major data collections overseen by ESS Data Management annually; this includes several agency and school-level reports: Personnel, Preschool Transition, Parentally Placed Private School Students, Discipline, and Exit.

**ADE Arizona Department of Education**

Supervised by a publicly elected state Superintendent of Public Instruction, the ADE oversees the K–12 public education system in Arizona, providing for the students of Arizona a uniform public school system including kindergarten schools, common schools, high schools, and normal schools.

**AELAS Arizona Education Learning & Accountability System**

A comprehensive statewide data system to collect, compile, maintain, and report student-level data for students attending public education institutions.

**APR Annual Performance Report**

Report on the performance of local education agencies (LEAs) based on established targets defined in the State Performance Plan (SPP).

**A.R.S. Arizona Revised Statutes**

State laws and regulations governed by the executive departments and agencies of the state government.

**AzEDS Arizona Educational Data Standards**

The data standard for the AELAS; a common language and process to streamline communication using CEDS being adopted by education systems across the nation to simplify the exchange of data between LEAs and their state agencies.

**AzEIP Arizona Early Intervention Program**

Statewide interagency system of early intervention services for families of children birth to three with disabilities or developmental delays and governed by Part C of IDEA.

**AzMERIT Arizona Measurement of Education Readiness to Inform Teaching**

Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching is Arizona's new statewide achievement test. Arizona is partnering with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to develop tests which are unique to Arizona.

**AzSAFE Arizona Safety and Accountability for Education**

The data system used by ADE/ESS to collect, track, and report school safety and discipline data. Data collected is used to satisfy federal reporting requirements within the Annual Special Education

Discipline Report.

**CEDS Common Education Data Standards**

Key set of education data elements to streamline the exchange, comparison, and understanding of data within and across P–20W institutions and sectors.

**C.F.R. Code of Federal Regulations**

The codification of the general and permanent rules and regulations published in the *Federal Register* by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government.

**CTDS County – Type – District – School/Site**

A 9-digit identifier assigned to entities, including PEAs/LEAs, that do business with ADE.

**DB Deaf-Blindness**

A condition of little or no useful sight and little or no useful hearing.

**DD Developmental Delay**

Performance by a child who is at least three years of age but under ten years of age on a norm-referenced test that measures at least one and one-half, but not more than three, standard deviations below the mean for children of the same chronological age in two or more of the following areas:

- Cognitive development
- Physical development
- Communication development
- Social or emotional development
- Adaptive development

The results of the norm-referenced measure must be corroborated by the information from a comprehensive development assessment and from parental input, if available, as measured by a judgment-based assessment or survey. If there is a discrepancy between the measures, the evaluation team shall determine eligibility based on a preponderance of the information presented. [A.R.S. § 15-761(3)]

**DOA District of Attendance**

The PEA/LEA where the student attends to receive educational and/or special education services and is identified with a DOR outside of the PEA/LEA. These students are commonly referred to as tuitioned-in students.

**DOR District of Residence**

The PEA/LEA where a student resides, regardless of where he/she attends to receive educational and/or special education services. This includes students attending sites within PEA/LEA, tuitioned-out students, and students attending sites outside of PEA/LEA.

**ED Emotional Disability**

- a) A condition whereby a child exhibits one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects the child’s performance in the educational environment:

- i. An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory or health factors.
  - ii. An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers.
  - iii. Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances.
  - iv. A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression.
  - v. A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.
- b) Includes children who are schizophrenic but does not include children who are socially maladjusted unless they are also determined to have to have an emotional disability as determined by evaluation as provided in section 15-766. [A.R.S. § 15-761(7)]

**EL English Learners**

Formerly referred to as limited English proficient (LEP), this term refers to students receiving services of language assistance with English as a second language.

**ESS Exceptional Student Services**

The unit within the ADE that provides a system of supports that wraps around educators to improve student outcomes—academically, behaviorally, functionally.

**FAQ Frequently Asked Questions**

Listed questions and answers, commonly asked in some context, and pertaining to a particular topic.

**FERPA Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act**

A federal law that gives parents access to their child’s educational records, an opportunity to seek to have records amended, and some control over the disclosure of information from the records.

**FFY Federal Fiscal Year**

The accounting period for the federal government that begins on July 1 and ends on July 1. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, fiscal year 2019 begins on July 1, 2018 and ends on June 30, 2019. Congress passes appropriations legislation to fund the government for every fiscal year.

**FPNI Federal Primary Need Indicator**

Identifies the disability category that has the greatest adverse impact on a special education student’s ability to access and progress through the general curriculum.

**FTE Full-Time Equivalency**

A unit of measurement that indicates the workload of an employed person in a way that makes workloads comparable across various contexts.

**FY Fiscal Year**

A period used for calculating annual financial statements in businesses and other organizations, including government. The fiscal year for the Arizona Department of Education begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

**HI Hearing Impairment**

A loss of hearing acuity, as determined by evaluation pursuant to section 15-766, that interferes with a child's performance in the educational environment and requires the provision of special education and related services. [A.R.S. § 15-761(8)]

**ID Intellectual Disability**

A significant impairment of the general intellectual functioning that exists concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and that adversely affects the child's performance in the educational environment. [A.R.S. § 15-761(13)]

**IAES Interim Alternative Educational Setting**

An appropriate setting determined by the child's IEP team or a hearing officer in which the child is placed for no more than 45 school days. This setting enables the child to receive educational services and participate in the general curriculum (although in another setting) and to progress towards meeting the goals set out in the IEP. As appropriate, the setting includes a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur.

**IDEA Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**

The federal law that governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to students with disabilities.

**IEP Individualized Education Program**

Legal document mandated by IDEA that defines the individualized goals of a child who has been found to have a disability, as defined by federal regulations.

**ISP Individualized Service Plan**

A plan for parentally-placed children that attend private/parochial schools or home schools located within the resident district boundaries who are eligible to receive special services from the resident district.

**ISS In-School Suspension**

Instances in which a child is temporarily removed from his/her regular classroom(s) for disciplinary reasons but remains under the direct supervision of school personnel. Direct supervision means school personnel are physically in the same location as the students under their supervision.

**IT Information Technology**

Application of computers and telecommunications to store, retrieve, transmit, and manipulate data, often in the context of business or other enterprise.

**LEA Local Education Agency**

A commonly used synonym for a school district or charter school, an entity which operates local public primary and secondary schools.

**LEP Limited English Proficiency**

See EL.

**LRE Least Restrictive Environment**

The opportunity for students with disabilities to be educated with non-disabled peers to the greatest extent appropriate that provides access to the general curriculum or any other program that nondisabled peers would be able to access.

**MD Multiple Disabilities**

Learning and developmental problems resulting from multiple disabilities as determined by evaluation pursuant to section 15-766 that cannot be provided for adequately in a program designed to meet the needs of children with less complex disabilities. Multiple disabilities include any of the following conditions that require the provision of special education and related services:

- a) Two or more of the following conditions:
  - i. Hearing impairment
  - ii. Orthopedic impairment
  - iii. Moderate intellectual disability
  - iv. Visual impairment
- b) A child with a disability listed in subdivision (a) of this paragraph existing concurrently with a condition of mild intellectual disability, emotional disability or specific learning disability. [A.R.S. § 15-761(17)]

**MDSSI Multiple Disabilities with Severe Sensory Impairment**

Multiple disabilities that include at least one of the following:

- a) Severe visual impairment or severe hearing impairment in combination with another severe disability
- b) Severe visual and severe hearing impairment [A.R.S. § 15-761(18)]

**MIID Mild Intellectual Disability**

Performance on standard measures of intellectual and adaptive behavior between two and three standard deviations below the mean for children of the same age. [A.R.S. § 15-761(14)]

**MOID Moderate Intellectual Disability**

Performance on standard measures of intellectual and adaptive behavior between three and four standard deviations below the mean for children of the same age. [A.R.S. § 15-761(15)]

**MSAA Multi-State Alternate Assessment**

A comprehensive assessment system designed to promote increasing higher academic outcomes for students with significant cognitive disabilities in preparation for a broader array of post-secondary outcomes.

**OHI Other Health Impairment**

Limited strength, vitality or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, due to chronic or acute health problems that adversely affect a pupil's educational performance. [A.R.S. § 15-761(20)]

**OI Orthopedic Impairment**

One or more severe orthopedic impairments and includes those that are caused by congenital anomaly, disease and other causes, such as amputation or cerebral palsy, and that adversely affects

a child's performance in the educational environment. [A.R.S. § 15-761(19)]

**OSEP Office of Special Education Programs**

The federal agency responsible for ensuring states' compliance with the IDEA.

**OSS Out-of-School Suspension**

Instances in which a child is temporarily removed from his/her regular school for disciplinary purposes to another setting (i.e., home, behavior center). This includes both removals in which no IEP services are provided because this removal is 10 days or less, as well as removals in which the child continues to receive services according to his/her IEP.

**OT Occupational Therapist**

Provides the following services to students with disabilities:

- improving, developing, or restoring functions impaired or lost through illness, injury, or deprivation;
- improving ability to perform tasks for independent functioning, if functions are impaired or lost; and
- preventing, through early intervention, initial or further impairment or loss of function.

**P–20W**

An SLDS that links data from Early Learning, K–12, Higher Education, and Workforce.

- P = Preschool
- 20 = Grade 20 or higher education
- W = Workforce

**PEA Public Education Agency**

Defined the same as LEA except this term also includes secure care facilities and state institutions.

**PL Public Law**

The part of law that governs relationships between individuals and government, and those relationships between individuals which are of direct concern to society.

**PSD Preschool Severe Delay**

Performance by a preschool child on a norm-referenced test that measures more than three standard deviations below the mean for children of the same chronological age in one or more of the following areas:

- a) Cognitive development
- b) Physical development
- c) Communication development
- d) Social or emotional development
- e) Adaptive development

The results of the norm-referenced measure must be corroborated by information from a comprehensive developmental assessment or survey. If there is a discrepancy between the measures, the evaluation team shall determine eligibility based on a preponderance of the

information presented. [A.R.S. § 15-761(24)]

**PT Physical Therapist**

Provides the following services to students with disabilities:

- screening, evaluation, and assessment of children to identify movement dysfunction;
- obtaining, interpreting, and integrating information appropriate to program planning to prevent, alleviate, or compensate for movement dysfunction and related functional problems; and
- providing individual and group services or treatment to prevent, alleviate, or compensate for movement dysfunction and related functional problems.

**RTC Residential Treatment Center**

A live-in health care facility providing therapy for substance abuse, mental illness, or other behavioral problems.

**SBI Serious Bodily Injury**

A bodily injury that involves substantial risk of death; extreme physical pain; protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or faculty.

**SEA State Education Agency**

A formal governmental label for the state-level government agencies within each U.S. state responsible for providing information, resources, and technical assistance on educational matters to schools and residents.

**SID Severe Intellectual Disability**

Performance on standard measures of intellectual and adaptive behavior measures at least four standard deviations below the mean for children of the same age. [A.R.S. § 15-761(29)]

**SIS Student Information System**

A data management system obtainable through a number of vendors to assist districts and charter schools in managing and reporting their data to ADE. (Interchangeable with SMS)

**SLD Specific Learning Disability**

A disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which disorder may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations. Disorders include such conditions as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. Disorders do not include a learning problem that is primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, of intellectual disabilities, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage. [20 United States Code § 1401]

**SLDS Statewide Longitudinal Data System**

A state-level data system capable of tracking student data over multiple years and multiple schools.

**SLI Speech/Language Impairment**

- a) For a preschool child: performance on a norm-referenced language test that measures at least one and one-half standard deviations below the mean for children of the same chronological age or whose speech, out of context, is unintelligible to a listener who is unfamiliar with the child. Eligibility for a preschool child is appropriate only when a comprehensive developmental assessment and parental input indicate that the preschool child is not eligible for services under another preschool category or under the developmental delay category. If there is a discrepancy between the measures, the evaluation team shall determine eligibility based on a preponderance of the information presented.
- b) For a child who has reached the required age for kindergarten: a speech or language impairment as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 300.8. [A.R.S. § 15-761(34)]

A communication disorder, such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment, or a voice impairment, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance. [34 C.F.R. § 300.8 (c)(11)]

**SLP      Speech Language Pathologist**

Provides the following services to children with disabilities:

- identification of children with speech or language impairments;
- diagnosis and appraisal of specific speech or language impairments;
- referral for medical or other professional attention necessary for the habilitation of speech or language impairments;
- provision of speech and language services for the habilitation or prevention of communicative impairments; and
- counseling and guidance of parents, children, and teachers regarding speech and language impairments.

**SLPA      Speech Language Pathology Assistant**

Performs tasks as prescribed, directed, and supervised by an SLP; these tasks include following documented treatment plans, documenting patient/client performance, assistance with clerical duties, scheduling and record keeping, and collecting data. In Arizona, SLPAs have a license from the Department of Health Services, but do not hold a certificate from the ADE.

**SMS      Student Management System**

A data management system obtainable through a number of vendors to assist districts and charter schools in managing and reporting their data to ADE. (Interchangeable with SIS)

**SPED      Special Education**

Education programs for students with disabilities.

**SPP      State Performance Plan**

Evaluation of the state’s implementation of IDEA Part B and improvement of implementation.

**SSIS      Statewide Student Information System**

See SIS.

**SWD      Students with Disabilities**



A student with a consequence of an impairment that may be physical, cognitive, mental, sensory, emotional, developmental, or some combination of these.

**TBI      Traumatic Brain Injury**

An acquired injury to the brain that is caused by an external physical force and that results in total or partial functional disability or impairment, or both, that adversely affects educational performance. Applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in mild, moderate or severe impairments in one or many areas, including cognition, language, memory, attention, reasoning, abstract thinking, judgment, problem solving, sensory, perceptual and motor abilities, psychosocial behavior, physical functions, information processing and speech. Does not include brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative or brain injuries induced by birth trauma. [A.R.S. § 15-761(38)]

**UE      Ungraded Elementary**

Students with an unassigned elementary grade. Students with disabilities receiving group B services must be at least 5 years old but less than 6 by September 1.

**U.S.C.      United States Code**

Official compilation and codification of the general and permanent federal statutes of the United States.

**VI      Visual Impairment**

An impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance; includes both partial sight and blindness. [34 C.F.R. § 300.8]