



Facts-on-Hand Acronyms and the Law

April 2001

FAPE-16

Facts-on-Hand is a new, easy-to-read series on special education topics. Listed below are acronyms related to early intervention, education, special education, and other laws important to individuals with disabilities and their families. For related information, also read **Acronyms and Agencies** and **Acronyms and Special Education**.

Acronym

Law

ADA

The Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the areas of employment, public transportation, telecommunications, access to public services programs, and activities of state and local governments, as well as those of commercial facilities, private businesses, and nonprofit service providers. The ADA was signed into law July 26, 1990.

CFR

Code of Federal Regulations. The rules and regulations of federal agencies as published in the *Federal Register*. The federal regulations for the implementation of the IDEA were published in the March 12, 1999, *Federal Register*, Part II, Department of Education, 34 CFR Parts 300 and 303.

DD Act

Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. Last amended in 1994, this Act is in the 106th Congress for reauthorization. The DD Act supports state developmental disabilities councils, state protection and advocacy agencies, university-affiliated programs, and other projects of national significance to enhance the independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities.

EDGAR

Education Department General Administrative Regulations. These establish uniform administrative requirements for federal grants and agreements awarded to institutions of higher education, hospitals, and other nonprofit organizations. Entities that apply for and receive federal grant funds must follow EDGAR regulations.

EHA

Education of the Handicapped Act (now IDEA). The name of the original 1975 legislation entitling children and youth with disabilities to a free appropriate public education.



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ESEA	The Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This law contains several federal programs designed to address the needs of disadvantaged students. The largest, Title 1 (formerly Chapter 1), is an \$8 billion program designed to ensure that students in high poverty schools meet high standards. The law was amended in 1994 to strengthen provisions around high state standards for all students, accountability for schools and districts that continually underperform, and strong parental involvement and quality program requirements for schools and districts receiving Title 1 funds. The law is currently in the process of being reauthorized.
FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Legislation giving parents the right to inspect and review their child's educational records, to amend errors or inaccuracies in those records, and to consent to disclosure of records.
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act. Enacted in 1966, this law entitles any person to the right to request access to federal agency records or information. There are some exemptions and exclusions that apply. Nearly all state governments have FOIA-type statutes that apply to state and local public agencies.
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (formerly EHA). This law states that children with disabilities have the right to a free appropriate public education, including procedural protections and the right to an education that is standards based. The latest amendments to this special education law were passed in 1997.
NPRM	Notice of Proposed Rule Making. Whenever a federal agency proposes to publish new or amended regulations to enact a law (such as IDEA) the proposed regulations are issued in the <i>Federal Register</i> for public review and comment. The NPRM designation indicates that these are proposed regulations, out for public comment. Once finalized, regulations are published in the <i>Federal Register</i> as Final Rules and Regulations.
PASS	Plan for Achieving Self-Support. A part of the SSI statute that permits the exclusion of income and resources of individuals who are blind or disabled, if an individual needs such income/resources to fulfill an approved PASS. PASS allows income to be set aside in order to reach a goal toward independence, such as starting a business, going to school, or obtaining training for a job. PASS set-aside money does not reduce SSI benefits.

The Perkins Act	The Carl Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1998. The purpose of this act is to develop more fully the academic, vocational, and technical skills of secondary and postsecondary students who choose to enroll in vocational and technical education programs. The act applies to the general population and to the following special populations: individuals with disabilities; individuals from economically disadvantaged families, including foster children; individuals preparing for nontraditional training and employment; single parents; single pregnant women; displaced homemakers; and individuals with limited English proficiency.
§	This symbol means “Section” as in “§300.7 Child with a disability” as written in the IDEA regulations.
Section 504	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. A civil rights statute designed to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Some individuals who do not qualify for services under IDEA may receive services and/or accommodations under Section 504.
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income. Cash benefits paid to individuals who are blind or have other disabilities and who have previously worked under (i.e., paid into) Social Security.
SSI	Supplemental Security Income. A supplemental cash benefits program administered by the Social Security Administration for individuals who are blind or have other disabilities who have little or no income or resources.
TWWIIA	Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. Landmark legislation enabling individuals with disabilities to become employed without losing Medicare or Medicaid coverage provided to those who are unemployed and receiving Social Security Disability Insurance and/or Supplemental Security Income. This act allows individuals to buy into these coverages when they stop receiving disability benefits upon gainful employment. Other provisions of the act give individuals the ability to obtain vocational rehabilitation and/or other support services.

Funding for the FAPE Project comes from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (Cooperative Agreement No. H326A980004). This document was reviewed by the U. S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the OSEP Project Office, and the FAPE Project Director for consistency with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Education, nor does mention of other organizations imply endorsement by those organizations or the U.S. Government.