Promotional Webcast

CTSP Disabilities A To Z

Are you sometimes puzzled by terms or acronyms such as IDEA, TBI, ED, ELL, or FERPA? If so, you are not alone. Many professions have their own nomenclature, or name of terms, specific to that occupation. If you’re not a member of that profession or group it might seem as if you are hearing a foreign language.

If you don’t understand the terms used it makes it hard to communicate your needs or understand what is being said in the conversation. A good example of this is terms used within Special Education. Often CTE teachers and parents may not understand a term thrown out by a special education representative during the course of a conversation, say during an ARD meeting—another one of those acronyms. This may create misunderstanding of what students needs are or what is expected of the CTE teacher, student or parent. My advice to teachers, students and parents are twofold:

First, stop the conversation and ask for clarification or a definition of the term being used. This will enable those using the terms and those participating to gain a better understanding of the terms used and how it applies to the situation.

Second, as much as possible, become familiar with the terms being used in special education and in some cases a student’s diagnoses or disability. Having a better understanding of how a diagnosis such as ED, emotional disturbance, is detected, treated and its educational implication are critical to providing the best possible instruction for a special needs student.

To assist you, the CTSP center has developed a resource called Disabilities A to Z which is listing of common terms and brief definitions used within special education. In addition, we have created FACT sheets on over 20 different common disorders and disabilities. These FACT sheets provide a definition of the condition, how prevalent it is, how it is diagnosed, educational implications and resources and services to support students and their parents with a particular disability or disorder.

To access these resources visit our CTSP website at ctsp.tamu.edu and click on link Disabilities A to Z.