



School Terms & Definitions

Terms and Definitions

In education there are a verity of words and terms specialized to the education system. Often it can feel like educators are speaking an entirely different language. These are terms that you might encounter in most schools and classrooms

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| General Education | This refers to a location and a level of instruction. The General Education classroom consists of the general population of students receiving instruction. |
| Inclusion or Inclusive Classroom | This refers to a location and the kinds of students that make up a classroom. Inclusion is when a classroom has a mixture of students that encompass a wide variety of educational abilities. Some students may have special education needs or be students receiving ELL services. Almost all classrooms are inclusive in some manner. |
| Academic Acceleration | A time period built into the schedule of the day in which students receive intervention or enrichment based upon their individual needs which should be determined by assessment or current classroom performance. Not all schools offer this. This may be called something different depending on the school (Flex Time, Academic Assist, Enrichment Period, etc.) |
| Co-teacher | A second teacher in the classroom. This can be an Intervention specialist or ELL educator working with a general education teacher to |

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| Intervention Specialist | <p>Also called a Special Education Teacher, is an educator trained to provide specialized intervention and instruction to students that qualify for Special Education services. These teachers are trained in assessment practices, data collection, and are specialized to provide intensive or specifically designed instruction to meet the needs of their students.</p> |
| Resource Room | <p>This is a location to indicate that a child is receiving instruction outside of the general population of their peers. This is for students that have qualified for special education services and their educational team has determined that they require instruction outside of the general education classroom</p> |
| ESL, ELL, DLL | <p>English as a Second Language (ESL) is a descriptor of a group of students that do not speak English as their first language. English Language Learner (ELL) and Dual Language Learner (DLL) are terms often used as well. An ESL or ELL teacher would be an educator trained and certified to educate ESL or ELL students.</p> |
| RtI | <p>Response to Intervention (RtI) is a process in which educators provide intervention instruction for an academically struggling student and monitor their progress to see if they improve.</p> |
| PBIS | <p>Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a tiered framework to provide instruction on expectations around expected behavior in schools and to address various levels of behavioral, social, and emotional needs of students</p> |
| MTSS | <p>Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) a newer name for RtI is also a framework that allows educators to meet the various needs of students and determine to what intensity and frequency of intervention is needed to meet those needs. MTSS is usually more comprehensive and looks to address disparities in behavioral/social/emotional needs as well as academic needs.</p> |
| Differentiation | <p>Differentiation refers to to the different teaching approaches, strategies, and techniques that a teachers uses in order to meet the needs of a wide variety of students at differing levels.</p> |

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| Curriculum | The content of the lessons that are being taught to the students. There are multiple in each school, usually one for each area. Example: Mathematics Curriculum, Language Arts Curriculum, Art Curriculum etc. |
| Targeted Instruction | Instruction and tools that are being used to target a specific skill or skill set usually with an individual student or small group of students |
| Tiered intervention | A form of instruction that is leveled from least intensive to most intensive by either frequency or duration or according to the person providing the intervention. |
| SEL or SEC | Social Emotional Learning (SEL) or Social Emotional Curriculum (SEC) is the teaching of social and emotional skills such as emotional regulation, goal setting, building positive relationships/friendships in the school setting. More info here . |
| RIMP | Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plan (RIMP) is an intervention plan for students that are determined to not be reading at the grade level. In Ohio this is for students grade Kindergarten to third grade. This term is specific to Ohio, though other states have some version of this. |
| Evaluation | A formal assessment measuring a wide variety of skills to determine qualification for specific educational services or placement |
| 504 Plan | A 504 Plan is a written plan that outlines accommodations and modifications for students with a disability that after evaluation are determined to require such provisions in order for them to access their education equitably. The 504 refers to part of federal educational laws prohibiting discrimination against students with disabilities and the requirement that all children regardless of a disability receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) |

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| IEP | Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is an plan that is put in place after a child has been evaluated for Special Education Services and is found to require specialized instruction in order to access and receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) |
| BIP | Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) is a specialized plan for a student that targets specific behaviors that are impeding the child’s progress at school, a good BIP should also teach positive replacement behaviors. |
| Progress Monitoring | The routine use of an assessment to measure the progress of a specific skill. |
| Executive Functions | Cognitive skills that allow a person to manage and control their skills and abilities. Examples of executive functioning skills are time management, organization, impulse control, planning, flexible thinking, working memory |
| PT | Physical Therapist (PT) provide specialized services and interventions in gross motor movement for students that requires such services. They also help facilitate movement and safety for the child throughout their school environment. |
| OT | Occupational Therapist (OT) provides specialized services and intervention on fine motor skills, functional skills, sensory processing skills, and so much more in order to help create an accessible learning environment for students who are determined to require such services |

The above list is not comprehensive and not fully reflective of all educational systems. Terms vary from district to district and state to state. For additional information check out [The Glossary of Educational Reform](#)