

ACRONYMS USED IN EDUCATION

In education, as in most specialized professions, educators use terms that may be unfamiliar. This list of the more commonly used acronyms or abbreviations and their meanings has been developed to help everyone involved in public schools communicate better.

ACT- American College Test

An assessment taken by students as a precursor to college/university admission.

ADA - Average Daily Attendance

The number of days a student is in membership at a school divided by the number of days in a school month or school year.

AP - Advanced Placement

A program that enables high school students to complete college-level courses for college placement and/or credit.

AYP - Adequate Yearly Progress

All public schools, in Mississippi and throughout the country, must measure and report AYP as outlined in the federal No Child Left Behind law. AYP measures the yearly progress of different groups of students at the school, district and state levels against yearly targets in reading and mathematics. Target goals are set for attendance and graduation rates as well. If a school misses one target, it does not make AYP.

CPAS - Career Planning and Assessment System

The Mississippi Career Planning and Assessment System assesses local program performance in producing students with workplace readiness skills and occupation-specific skills.

ELL - English Language Learner

Student whose first language is one other than English and who needs language assistance to participate fully in the regular curriculum.

ESL - English as a Second Language

A program model that delivers specialized instruction to students who are learning English as a new language.

FLE - Functional Literacy Exam

The current Functional Literacy Examination, a minimal competency high school exit examination administered in grade 11 for reading, mathematics, and written communication, will be phased out over a period of years.

FRL - Free and Reduced Priced Lunch

Children qualify, based upon parent or guardian financial status, to receive either free or reduced priced lunch through a federal governmental program.

IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

This federal law, reauthorized in 2004, is designed to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free and appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment and independent living.

IEP - Individualized Education Program

The IEP is a written statement for a student with a disability that is developed, at least annually, by a team of professionals knowledgeable about the student and the parent. The plan describes the strengths of the child and the concerns of the parents for enhancing the education of their child, and when, where, and how often services will be provided. The IEP is required by federal law for all exceptional children and must include specific information about how the student will be served and what goals he or she should be meeting.

LEA - Local Education Agency

Synonymous with a local school system or a local school district, indicating that a public board of education or other public authority maintains administrative control of the public schools in a city or county.

LEP - Limited English Proficient

Students whose first language is one other than English who need language assistance to participate fully in the regular curriculum and the statewide assessment system.

MCT2 - Mississippi Curriculum Tests 2

The Mississippi Grade Level Testing Program consists of the Mississippi Curriculum Tests in language arts and mathematics in grades 3-8.

MDE - Mississippi Department of Education

MDE administers the policies adopted by the State Board of Education and offers instructional, financial, technological and personnel support to all public school systems in the state.

NAEP - National Assessment of Educational Progress

Also known as the "Nation's Report Card," NAEP assesses the educational achievement of elementary and secondary students in various subject areas. It provides data for comparing the performance of students in the Harrison County School District to that of their peers in the nation.

NCLB - No Child Left Behind

NCLB is the 2002 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and represents a sweeping change in the federal government's role in local public education. NCLB's primary goal is for all public school children to be proficient or above in reading and mathematics by 2013-14. Title I schools that do not meet certain student achievement standards face

sanctions under this law.

SAT

The SAT is often taken by high school juniors and seniors as a precursor to college/university admission. It assesses a student's verbal, mathematical and writing skills.

SATP

Subject Area Testing Program. The Subject Area Testing Program includes tests in Algebra I, Biology I, English II (with a writing component), and U.S. History from 1877. Each of these tests is an end-of-course, criterion-referenced test custom developed from the Mississippi curriculum. These tests will eventually replace the FLE as requirements for high school graduation.

TST

Teacher Support Team. TST is a process used in providing assistance to teachers in improving the academic and behavioral performance of students at risk. The team's purpose is to empower the classroom teacher to become more effective through analysis and alignment of resources.

Title I A

Title I is the largest federal education funding program for schools. Its aim is to help students who are behind academically or at risk of falling behind. School funding is based on the number of low-income children, generally those eligible for the free and reduced price lunch program. Many of the major requirements in the No Child Left Behind federal law are outlined in Title I - Adequate Yearly Progress, teacher and paraprofessional standards, accountability, sanctions for schools designated for improvement, standards and assessments, annual state report cards, professional development and parent involvement. Title I used to be known as Chapter I.

Title III

Title III is the section of No Child Left Behind that provides funding and addresses English language acquisition and standards and accountability requirements for limited English proficient students.

Title IX

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 bans sex discrimination in schools receiving federal funds, whether it is in academics or athletics.