Alphabet Soup: Acronyms in Early Intervention

IDEA | Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is our nation’s early intervention and special education law. Part C of IDEA makes early intervention services available for infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays and their families. Part B of IDEA makes special education available to school-aged children with disabilities, including preschoolers.

Sometimes people add numbers to IDEA, such as IDEA ’97 or IDEA 2004. When they do this, they’re referring to a specific set of amendments Congress has made to IDEA—usually, the year in which those amendments were made.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) administers IDEA. OSEP is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities—ages birth through 21—by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts.

ISFP | Individualized Family Service Plan

The Individualized Family Service Plan is a written plan for providing early intervention services to an infant or toddler with a disability and the child’s family. Every eligible infant and toddler with a disability must have an IFSP. Things to know about the IFSP include:

- The IFSP is based on information gathered through evaluation and assessment of the infant or toddler and the family. Read about evaluation and assessment at §303.321 in the Part C regulations.

- The IFSP includes specific information, such as how the child is doing developmentally, what results or outcomes are to be achieved, what early intervention services are needed to address the unique needs of the child and family, and where and when those services will be provided. Read what’s required by the Part C regulations at §303.344.

- The IFSP is developed by a team that includes the child’s parent(s). Read how the IFSP is developed at §§303.342, 343 and 345.

- The IFSP must be implemented as soon as possible after parents give their consent for the early intervention services listed in the IFSP. It is reviewed at least every six months and revised as necessary.

EI or EIS | Early Intervention or Early Intervention Service

EI and EIS stand for early intervention (EI) or early intervention service (EIS), respectively. This acronym is a bit tricky, because someone may be referring to:

- the overall early intervention system,

- the early intervention program at the State level,

- local early intervention providers, or

- early intervention services that are provided in the natural environment for the eligible infant and toddler with a disability and their family.

ICC | Interagency Coordinating Council

ICC stands for Interagency Coordinating Council. If a State would like to receive financial assistance under Part C of IDEA, it must establish an ICC with certain membership (described at

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§303.601). The ICC is appointed by the Governor of the State and has specific responsibilities (described at §303.603), including advising and assisting the State’s lead agency in carrying out its duties under Part C of IDEA.

FERPA | Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

FERPA stands for the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools and other programs that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

The FERPA definitions were adopted in the Part C regulations by reference. Whenever FERPA uses the term “student,” the term “child” is applied in Part C of IDEA. Similarly, when FERPA uses the term “school,” Part C uses the term “EIS providers.” Thus, FERPA and Part C both provide for the privacy of early intervention records of infants and toddlers with disabilities.

Read FERPA at Title 34 of the U.S. Code of Regulations, Part 99.

PII | Personally Identifiable Information

PII means “personally identifiable information.” The term is prominent in FERPA (just described).

One of the key purposes of FERPA is to ensure the privacy of personally identifiable information in student education records. Part C of IDEA applies FERPA’s requirements to ensure the privacy of personally identifiable information in children’s early intervention records.

PII is defined as information that can be used to distinguish or trace a person’s identity, such as name, social security number, or biometric records. PII also includes information that can be used in combination with other personal or identifying information (such as date and place of birth, mother’s maiden name) that is linked or linkable to a specific individual.

The State’s lead agency or other participating agency may not disclose PII to any party, except participating agencies that are part of the State’s Part C system, without parental consent. Another exception to the requirement of parental consent is the limited disclosure of directory information when the lead agency must notify the State Education Agency (SEA) and the child’s Local Education Agency (LEA) that the child is reaching the age of eligibility for preschool services under Part B of IDEA and is potentially eligible for that program.

TA & D | Technical Assistance and Dissemination Network

When you hear or read the term TA&D, it’s a reference to the Technical Assistance and Dissemination Network of more than 40 projects, each with specialized areas of knowledge in disability. Find the TA&D at: http://www.tadnet.org/

OSEP is responsible for guiding, supporting, and monitoring the implementation of IDEA on behalf of children with disabilities in the nation. As part of that responsibility, OSEP funds the TA&D network to provide disability-related expertise to stakeholders nationally or in specific regions.

Several centers in the TA&D focus on early childhood. You can identify these and take advantage of their many resources by visiting this link: http://www.tadnet.org/matrix_centers?id=5
## Alphabet Soup, for Later!

You know that there are more acronyms used in early intervention and the disability field than the seven just summarized. So—here’s a quick list of the other acronyms you might hear...and wonder about.

### A

- AAC: Alternative Augmentative Communication
- AAP: American Academy of Pediatrics
- ABA: Applied Behavioral Analysis
- ABC: Antecedent, Behavior, Consequence
- ACF: Administration for Children and Families
- ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act
- ADD: Attention Deficit Disorder
- ADHD: Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- AMCHP: Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
- APR: Annual Performance Report
- ARRA: American Recovery & Reinvestment Act
- ASD: Autism Spectrum Disorders
- ASHA: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- ASL: American Sign Language
- AT: Assistive Technology
- AYP: Adequate Yearly Progress

### B

- BD: Behavioral Disorder
- BIP: Behavioral Intervention Plan
- BOE: Board of Education

### C

- CAPD: Central Auditory Processing Disorder
- CAPTA: Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
- CATCH: Community Access to Child Health
- CDA: Child Development Associate
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- CEC: Council for Exceptional Children
- CFR: Code of Federal Regulations
- CHIP: Children’s Health Insurance Program
- CP: Cerebral Palsy
- CPRC: Community Parent Resource Center
- CSCHN: Children with Special Health Care Needs
- CST: Child Study Team

### D

- DAP: Developmentally Appropriate Practice
- DB: Deaf-Blind
- DD: Developmental Delay
- DD Act: Developmental Disabilities Assistance & Bill of Rights Act
- DD Act: Developmental Disabilities Assistance & Bill of Rights Act
- DESE: Department of Education
- DS: Down Syndrome
- DSM: *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (American Psychiatric Association)

### E

- ECE: Early Childhood Education
- ECSE: Early Childhood Special Education
- ED: Emotional Disturbance
- EDU: U.S. Department of Education
- EDGAR: Education Department General Administrative Regulations
- EHA: Education of the Handicapped Act (now IDEA)
- EHDl: Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
- EHS: Early Head Start
- EI: Early Intervention
- ELL: English Language Learner
- EPSTD: Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment
- ESEA: Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- ESY: Extended School Year Services

### F

- FAPE: Free Appropriate Public Education
- FAS: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- FBA: Functional Behavioral Assessment
- FERPA: Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act
- FOIA: Freedom of Information Act

### G–J

- GPRA: Government Performance & Results Act
- HI: Hearing Impaired
- HIPAA: Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996
- HO: Hearing Officer

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### Alphabet Soup, for Later!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HoH</td>
<td>Hard of Hearing</td>
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<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Intellectual Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDEA</td>
<td>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>IEP</td>
<td>Individualized Education Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFSP</td>
<td>Individualized Family Service Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>IGDI</td>
<td>Individual Growth &amp; Development Indicator</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITCA</td>
<td>Infants &amp; Toddlers Coordinators Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>LD</td>
<td>Learning Disability</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEA</td>
<td>Local Education Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEP</td>
<td>Limited English Proficiency</td>
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<tr>
<td>LRE</td>
<td>Least Restrictive Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCH</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Muscular Dystrophy</td>
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<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR</td>
<td>Mental Retardation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCLB</td>
<td>No Child Left Behind Act</td>
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<td>NECTAC</td>
<td>National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>NICHCY</td>
<td>National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>NICU</td>
<td>Neonatal Intensive Care Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCD</td>
<td>Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCR</td>
<td>Office for Civil Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODD</td>
<td>Oppositional Defiant Disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHI</td>
<td>Other Health Impairment</td>
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<tr>
<td>OI</td>
<td>Orthopedic Impairment</td>
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<tr>
<td>O &amp; M</td>
<td>Orientation and Mobility</td>
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<td>OSEP</td>
<td>Office of Special Education Programs</td>
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<td>OT</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>P A</td>
<td>Protection &amp; Advocacy</td>
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<td>PBS</td>
<td>Positive Behavioral Supports</td>
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<td>PD</td>
<td>Physical Disability</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDD</td>
<td>Pervasive Developmental Disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDD-NOS</td>
<td>Pervasive developmental disorder—Not otherwise specified</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td>Physical Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTI</td>
<td>Parent Training &amp; Information Center</td>
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### Symbols and Acronyms

- **$** This symbol means “section” in the federal and other regulations
- SB  | Spina Bifida
- SCHIP | State Children’s Health Insurance Program
- SE  | Special Education
- SEA | State Education Agency
- Section 504 | Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- SED | Serious Emotional Disturbance
- SI  | Sensory Integration
- SICC | State Interagency Coordinating Council
- SLD | Specific Learning Disability
- SLI | Speech/Language Impairment
- SLP | Speech/Language Pathologist
- SPP | State Performance Plan
- SSDI | Social Security Disability Income
- SSI | Supplemental Security Income
- TANF | Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- TBI | Traumatic Brain Injury
- TDD | Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf
- TS  | Tourette Syndrome
- T-TA | Training & Technical Assistance
- TTY | Teletypewriter (phone system for the deaf)
- VI  | Visual Impairment
- WIC | Women, Infants & Children (Special Supplemental Food Program)

### Alphabetical List

- **TA & D** | Technical Assistance & Dissemination Network funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
- TAF    | Training Assistance for Families
- TASS   | Technical Assistance and Support Services
- TEC    | Technical Education
- TECO   | Technical Education Coordinating Office
- TECOS  | Technical Education Coordinating Office System
- TEL    | Technical Education
- TELP   | Technical Education and Related Services
- TELP-O  | Technical Education and Related Services (Office of Special Education Programs)
- TELP-OSEP | Technical Education and Related Services (Office of Special Education Programs)
- TELP-SSEP | Technical Education and Related Services (Special Education)