

Special Education Parent Handbook



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Welcome from the Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Being a parent is the most incredible and important job. When we accept this role, we embark on a journey that will lead us to the highest thrills, the deepest burdens, and the greatest rewards. Parenthood also brings daunting challenges that will push the limits of our skills and abilities. This guidebook is intended to help you identify a team that will support you through you and your child's journey through special education. Whether you have just had your first Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting within Academy District 20 or have attended several, we hope this handbook serves as a resource and helps answer questions you may have along the way.

We would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that you are not alone on this journey and invite you to participate on the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). The SEAC partners with the Department of Special Education and consists of a dedicated group of parents/guardians of students with special needs as well as staff members from all schools in the district. The goal of the SEAC is for members to have a voice by contributing ideas and providing outreach to the Academy District 20 community regarding students with special needs and district programming.

Previous projects and activities that Academy District 20 has engaged in include organizing open houses where community organizations related to youth and special education provide information to families, creating documents to support students with IEPs as they transition between grade levels, and providing trainings to parents and staff members on select special education topics.

Welcome to Academy District 20 and to the world of exceptional children and exceptional parents.

Sincerely,

Special Education Advisory Council 2023-2024

ASD20 Programming Information

Resource

Students served in the resource program are provided individualized instruction and intervention to support the whole child including academics, behavior, communication, social, emotional, adaptive, sensory, and physical needs in the least restrictive environment. Our purpose is to provide students with access to general education and grade level standards.

Related Services

Related services are determined by evaluation data and information gathered by the IEP. These services are provided to help students access the general curriculum. Individual service providers serve a variety of schools within Academy District 20. Related services include speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision, deaf and hard of hearing, and mental health.

Child Find Program

We make sure that young learners having difficulties or delays in development get the help they need to be successful in school. Our child find system helps identify children suspected of having a significant delay in development. The process may begin with a developmental screening and when appropriate, a multidisciplinary evaluation to determine eligibility for preschool through special education.

Center Based Programs

Center based programs are specialized classrooms located in many neighborhood schools across the district. These programs provide an intensive level of support based on the individual needs of the student and access to additional resources and support. Students in center-based programs can demonstrate deficits in academics, behavior, communication, social, emotional, and/or independence that are impacting their access to general education. These students are unable to get their needs met within the neighborhood school setting alone. The process for a centerbased program is data driven, an IEP team decision, and the district's Special Education Department must be included in the decision to change a student's placement. Center based programs in the district are listed below.

Affective Needs Programs

Affective Needs (AN) Programs serve students with social, emotional, or behavioral needs who require specialized programming based on their unique needs. In AN programs, we focus on building relationships in a safe and consistent environment within an academic setting. Students who come to AN programs have frequently had behavior challenges in their previous setting, and require more structure and time to build school-ready behaviors.

Significant Support Needs Programs

Significant Support Needs (SSN) programs serve students who have cognitive, developmental, physical, or orthopedic disabilities, including Traumatic Brain Injuries. Rigorous instruction and programming is designed to address individualized needs to maximize potential including increased communication and independence for further education, employment, and independent living. Instruction is guided by district-approved curriculum and the state modified standards.

Communication and Social Development Programs

Communication Social Development (CSD) programs support students identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder who require specialized programming based on their unique needs. Students who come to CSD programs demonstrate significant deficits in functional communication, social skills and/or restrictive interests/repetitive behaviors that are impacting their access to general education and are unable to get their needs met within the neighborhood school.

Preschool

Preschool introduces children to the structure, routine and focus of school, while also teaching them a variety of cognitive, social, emotional and language skills.

Bridges

Bridges supports students as they transition from school to the adult world. Individualized students connect students and parents to supports and opportunities that promote skill development, self-advocacy, and independence.

Should my student be tested?

You, or another caregiver, may have noticed your student is struggling with certain developmental milestones and have wondered where you can get help. In addition to private organizations, you can get help through your local school district and request that your student be tested to determine if they are a candidate for special education services.

Once a referral for an evaluation is made, a multi-disciplinary team (MDT), including a special educator, a general education teacher, and parents, must review the referral and any existing information regarding the student. Based on the review, the MDT will determine the appropriateness of the referral and proceed with an evaluation planning meeting.

Once the evaluation has been completed, it will be necessary to schedule a meeting to review the results and determine whether the student qualifies for special education services. If your student is eligible for services, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed.

Parent Involvement Tips

Parents are an important part of the IEP team. The IEP team includes school staff members, parents, and other professionals who know and support the student. It is not uncommon to feel overwhelmed as a parent at these meetings. It seems that the time goes quickly and a significant amount of information is provided. It is important to remember that your participation and ongoing involvement are a crucial part of your student's success. No one knows your student like you!

Here are some tips for a successful IEP meeting to help your student reach his or her fullest potential:

- Be present! This is the most important step you can take in supporting your student. Check your calendars when meetings are scheduled to ensure you can attend.
- Find ways to be involved with your student's education throughout the year. (Volunteer, join a committee/ParentTeacher Organization, attend special events, schedule time at home for working on school projects and homework, read to/with the student)
- Communicating with school staff on a regular basis via phone, e-mail, or communication log can help you be aware of your student's progress at school. Your student's case manager will likely be the most helpful point of contact. If your student is being initially evaluated for special education services, please refer to the contact information listed on the consent to evaluate form.
- Be prepared to talk to your team about your student's strengths and interests, the goals you have for your student, and tips for teachers regarding how to support your student's educational needs.
- Review the draft copy of your student's IEP report. If you have questions, contact the case manager to clarify and gather additional information prior to the meeting. Mark any questions you have. There is no question too small!
- Share information from outside providers as appropriate, including copies of outside reports.
- Bring a person who can be a support to you. This individual can be a friend, relative, community-based service provider, advocate, or other important person. They can help you remember to ask important questions and help review what was said in the meeting. If you are going to bring an additional participant, it is nice to let the school know so that accommodations can be arranged.
- During the IEP meeting, feel free to take notes and ask questions. Seek clarification about any unfamiliar terms used in the meeting.
- Ask to schedule a continuance of the meeting if time runs out.
- Remember, the overall purpose of this team IEP meeting is to be solution-focused to promote your student's success.
- If you have any other questions, please contact your case manager or school. Don't be afraid to ask for information that will help you become an effective partner in your student's educational program and to appropriately advocate for your student's educational needs.

Parental Rights and Procedural Safeguards

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Federal law concerning the education of students with disabilities, requires schools to provide parents of a child with a disability with a notice containing a full explanation of the procedural safeguards available under the IDEA and U.S. Department of Education regulations. A copy of this notice must be given to parents only one time a school year, except that a copy must be given to the parents: (1) upon initial referral or parent request for evaluation; (2) upon receipt of the first State complaint and upon receipt of the first due process complaint in a school year; (3) when a decision is made to take a disciplinary action that constitutes a change of placement; and (4) upon parent request. [34 CFR §300.504(a)]

For a full copy of your parent and child rights in special education, please contact your student's school. You may also find them at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/spedlaw/2011proceduralsafeguards>

What is an IEP?

The Individual Education Program (IEP) is a plan, or road map, developed by parents and school personnel to help make the student's school journey a success. This yearly plan addresses goals, identifies services and ways to measure individual student progress.

The focus of the IEP meeting is to determine what strategies best meet the student's particular needs. The team discusses the students' strengths, as well as their weaknesses. The team determines what kinds of support and services are needed to bring about the best results. In addition, criteria is established for monitoring the student's progress. It is important to remember that this plan is adjusted according to each student's needs. Parents always have the right to ask for updates on the student's progress.

At this meeting, there may be unfamiliar terminology. If that happens, ask questions. Here are a few terms that are commonly used:

- Accommodation - changes made to teaching and testing that give the student an opportunity to show what they know.
- Modification - changes in what the student is expected to learn while keeping the subject the same as their peers.
- LRE (Least Restrictive Environment) - simply stated, it means determining the most appropriate setting for the student to learn and allowing them as much time with typical peers as possible.

Other terms that are frequently used are included in the glossary on page 13.

Eligibility for Special Education Services

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that a multidisciplinary IEP team (a group of qualified professionals and the parents) determine if a student has a disability that requires special education services. Evaluation data and information from a variety of sources are used by the IEP team to determine if the student meets State eligibility criteria. All members of the IEP team, including parents, have the right to disagree with this determination. Eligibility requires that a condition prevents the student from receiving reasonable benefit from general education.

Areas of Eligibility include:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Hearing Impairment, Including Deafness
- Serious Emotional Disability
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impaired
- Specific Learning Disability

- Speech and Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment, Including Blindness
- Deaf-Blindness

More information about disability categories and eligibility can be found at:

Office of Special Education 201 East Colfax Avenue Denver, Colorado 80203-1799

CDE Main Phone: (303) 866- 6600

www.cde.state.co.us

Types of Meetings

Eligibility Meeting - This is the initial meeting that takes place once a referral has been made and the testing has been completed. In this meeting the results are discussed, and the team determines whether the child is in need of special education services. If the child is eligible, school personnel and the parents develop an IEP by outlining services, specific goals, accommodations and modifications.

Annual Review Meeting - A Student must receive an annual review every year. This meeting takes place during the school year (within 12 months of the Eligibility Meeting) to determine how the student is progressing and what changes need to be made to the IEP. "Additional Meetings" may be scheduled by the parent or school staff if necessary.

Triennial Eligibility Meeting (re-evaluation) - Every three years the student's eligibility for special education services must be re-evaluated. Before the meeting, new testing will be done and new information gathered, unless the school district and parents agree no evaluation is necessary. From that information, the team will determine if the student continues to be eligible for special education services and, if so, what adjustments need to be made to their IEP.

IEPs may be amended without a meeting - Minor changes to an IEP may be made without a meeting, provided that parents and the school district agree with the changes. This process can save time for parents and staff when only minor changes to the IEP are being made. Amendments do not change the due date of the next Review/ Annual Meeting.

Educational Settings

When a student becomes eligible for special education services, the Individual Education Program (IEP) team develops a written plan for that student. This plan will include information about educational goals and will identify who is responsible for assisting the student in reaching each goal. Additionally, the plan will talk about the educational setting where the student will receive these services. Least restrictive environment (LRE) is an important concept to understand when a team is talking about how to meet the educational needs of a student. LRE means that the IEP

team should design educational supports and services, to the maximum extent possible, so that the student can be educated with children who do not have disabilities. The IEP team should provide documentation and justification whenever education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. Following is a description of possible service options for students:

Direct Services

Direct special education and/or related services are those services provided directly to the student in a one-on-one, small group, or large group setting by:

- An appropriately CDE-licensed and endorsed special education teacher or special education related services provider;
- A paraprofessional under the supervision of an appropriately licensed and endorsed special education teacher or related services provider;
- A speech language pathology assistant (SLPA) under the supervision of a CDE-licensed speech language pathologist who holds a national certification. SLPA's must possess a credentialing authorization from the CDE.

Indirect Services

Indirect services are those provided by special education and/or related services on behalf of a student (but not directly to a student) to educators (who are appropriately licensed, endorsed or authorized), to parents, and to other agencies by an appropriately licensed and endorsed special education teacher or related services provider. Indirect services also include time spent by appropriate providers modifying materials.

Least Restrictive Environment

The LRE requirement provides that to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities must be educated with children who are nondisabled. The LRE requirement expects students with disabilities be educated in regular classes with appropriate aids and services, but full access to the general education setting is not required for every student. If a student requires more intensive services than can be provided in a regular class with supplementary aids and services, then a more restrictive setting may be necessary to provide a free appropriate public education. While including students in the regular classroom as much as possible is undoubtedly a central goal of the IDEA, schools must attempt to achieve that goal in light of the equally important objective of providing an education appropriately tailored to each student's particular needs.

Neighborhood/Home School

Services can be provided in the general education classroom with varying degrees of support from special education providers. Services may also be provided for varying amounts of time outside of the general education classroom. Services may be provided by multiple service providers based on individual student need.

Specialized Programs in the District or in Another District

In some cases, it is not reasonable to provide the support required by the student in a general education classroom. In these instances, an educational service may not be located at the student's neighborhood school and may necessitate that the student be transported by the school district to another neighborhood school. In some instances, the student's needs may be so specialized, that the student may be transported by the school district to a school or facility in a neighboring school district.



Early Intervention Services

At Academy District 20 (ASD20), we make sure that young learners having difficulties or delays in development get the help they need to be successful in school. Our child find system helps identify children suspected of having a significant delay in development. The process may begin with a developmental screening and, when appropriate, a multidisciplinary evaluation to determine eligibility for preschool through special education.

Our Child Find program is available to families, at no cost, who live within ASD20 boundaries. If you live outside of this area, please contact your local school district's Child Find office.

Children who are not yet in kindergarten may be referred at any time when a family member, doctor or childcare provider has a concern about their development.

For children from 0-30 months of age, referrals can be made to the newly forming Department of Early Childhood or The Resource Exchange, [719-577-9190](tel:719-577-9190), to gather information about your child, provide information about intervention, service coordination, and eligibility determination. ASD20 can also provide who to contact information for children ages 0 - 30 months.

Children three to five years old are evaluated as a part of the preschool special education process.

Children who are entering kindergarten or are 5 years old by October 1 of the current school year should contact their local elementary school if they have a concern about their child's development.

For preschool aged children, 3 years up to 5 years old, including preschool children who attend a charter school, childcare, or private preschool:

Contact:

Academy School District 20 Child Find Coordinator

[719-234-1755](tel:719-234-1755)

Transition

Transition refers to the period of time when a student is preparing to leave school and enter the adult community. This change creates important considerations for students with special needs. All young people face a number of decisions about careers, living arrangements, and social life. For individuals with disabilities, these decisions may be more complex due to the need for additional support. Academy District 20 is committed to providing necessary support and instruction for students who qualify for transition services so they can acquire an understanding of selfvalue and achieve personal success.

Under both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004), "Transition Services" are defined as a coordinated set of activities for a student, designed within an outcomeoriented process that promotes movement from school to post- school activities including:

- Post-secondary education

- Vocational training
- Integrated employment (including supported employment)
- Continuing and adult education
- Adult services
- Independent living
- Community participation

The coordinated set of activities shall be based upon the individual student’s qualification for services and needs, taking in to account the student’s preferences and interests and shall include:

- Community experiences
- The development of other post-school adult living activities
- The development of employment
- When appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and/or functional vocational education

The concept of transition is simple and generally has three major components:

Coach every student, along with his or her family, to think about goals after high school and to develop a long-range plan to get there.

Design high school experiences to ensure that the student gains the skills needed to achieve his or her desired post-school goals.

Identify and link students and families to any needed post-school services, supports or programs before the student exits the school system.

Early and long-range planning are critical in order for the student to receive many post-school programs or services whether they include support services in college or residential services from an adult provider. Students and families are often faced with much paperwork to meet eligibility requirements and some adult services have long waiting lists. Early, thoughtful planning will help ensure that the student will receive needed services in a timely manner when they exit the school system.

Additional Information

CDE’s Office of Special Education: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped>

504s VS. IEPs

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal anti-discrimination law that applies to qualified students with disabilities. To be eligible for the protections noted in Section 504, a student must be determined to have a disability

that substantially limits a major life activity such as walking, speaking, or learning. Every school in Academy District 20 has a process to identify and provide supports to eligible students. A school counselor or administrator can provide you with more detailed information about Section 504 and 504 Plans.

There are many similarities between Section 504 and IDEA legislation, and there are some important differences. Both laws ensure a free and appropriate education (FAPE) to eligible students with disabilities. However, each act has unique and specific eligibility conditions which may result in a student being eligible for educational services through the IDEA but not through Section 504. A special educator, school counselor, or administrator at the student's school is available to answer any questions about these two laws.

Office for Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>

Colorado Department of Education: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/spedlaw/rules>

Who are all these people?

You may have contact with many of the following individuals at some stage of the special education process. The following information is intended to provide information about their role.

AUDIOLOGIST: The audiologist tests the student's hearing to determine if the hearing is adequate for promoting the highest rate of learning. The audiologist also assists parents and teachers in managing hearing concerns.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR: The school counselor's role will vary across schools. The school counselor may share information on ways to help the student improve his or her self-concept and communicate more effectively. Some school counselors have responsibility for academic scheduling, academic assessment coordination, transition programs and post-secondary advisement.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST (OT): An occupational therapist (OT) evaluates the small muscle functions (fine motor skills) used in feeding, dressing and coordination. The OT may work with students to help develop fine motor/perceptual motor skills and may also assist teachers and parents through consultation in developing activities and adapting equipment to improve the student's skills necessary to access the educational environment.

PARENT/GUARDIAN: A parent or guardian is legally responsible for a student's education. The parent/guardian is the expert regarding the student and has more information about the student than anyone else. Thus, a parent/guardian plays an important role in the decisions made about goals and programming for the student.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST (PT): A physical therapist (PT) evaluates the large muscle functions (gross motor skills) such as sitting, standing, walking and how well the student can move his/her whole body. The physical therapist may work directly with a student and/or assist teachers and parents by developing activities and adapting equipment to improve the student's muscle strength and normal movement abilities so the student can access the educational environment.

School Administrator: The school administrator participates as a team member during the meetings, and provide oversight of the special education program in the building where the student attends school.

GENERAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM TEACHER: The classroom teacher will provide information about the daily social, emotional, and academic performance of the student in the general classroom. This information helps determining eligibility for special education services and reflects the progress of the student in a special education program.

SCHOOL NURSE: The school nurse may contact parents/guardians regarding the student's health history and current health status. The school nurse may provide information pertaining to community resources to meet health needs and

may make recommendations in regard to managing certain health related problems that impact on a student's school performance.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER: The school social worker evaluates the social, emotional, and cultural/factors affecting the student's progress at school. The school social worker may work directly with the student or consult with parents, teachers, or community service providers in order to improve the student's performance at school.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST: The school psychologist evaluates the cognitive potentials of the student and may also evaluate social, emotional, and cultural factors affecting the student's progress at school. The school psychologist may work directly with the student or provide consultation to parents, teachers, or community service providers.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER: The special education teacher helps to assess the academic functioning of the student and will design, implement, and evaluate the instructional programming to meet the student's special education needs. The special education teacher may provide instructional and/or consultation services in a general education classroom, a self-contained classroom, or in a center-based program other than the neighborhood school.

SPEECH/LANGUAGE THERAPIST: The speech/language therapist evaluates the student's communication skills and provides direct services to the student to help improve speech, language, and social communication skills. The speech/ language therapist may also assist teachers and parents in educational programming to improve communication skills.

TEACHER OF THE HEARING IMPAIRED: The teacher of hearing impaired provides evaluation and special programming for students who have an educationally-significant loss of hearing which would affect the ability to communicate with others. The teacher of hearing impaired may provide direct services to students and consultation services to parents and teachers.

TEACHER OF THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED: The teacher of visually impaired provides evaluation and special programming for students who have significant vision impairment. The teacher of visually impaired may provide direct services to students and consultation services to parents and teachers.

BRIDGES (TRANSITION) COORDINATOR: The bridges coordinator assists in developing transition strategies that may be appropriate for the student and family. The bridges coordinator provides information to staff, students, and family members regarding school/community programs and may assist in the transition from school to adult/community living.

WORK EXPERIENCE COORDINATOR: The work experience coordinator assists in providing career/vocational experience for students through instruction, counseling, assessment, on- the-job training and other support activities.

Glossary of Terms

AFFECTIVE NEEDS PROGRAM - Affective Needs (AN) Programs serve students with social, emotional, or behavioral needs who require specialized programming based on their unique needs. In AN programs, we focus on building relationships in a safe and consistent environment within an academic setting. Students who come to AN program have frequently had behavior challenges in their previous setting and require more structure and time to build school-ready behaviors.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) - A Federal law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in the areas of employment, public transportation, services provided by state and local government,

services and accommodations offered by private businesses, and telecommunication access for people with communication impairments.

ACHIEVEMENT TESTING - Measures what a student has already learned in areas such as reading, math, writing and oral language.

ADAPTED PHYSICAL EDUCATION - A physical education program designed to meet the special needs of individual students with disabilities who need modifications to the school's regular physical education program, or a specially designed program.

ADVOCATE - A person who speaks on his/her own behalf or on behalf of others to protect their rights and ensure access to services.

ANNUAL GOAL - A measurable outcome that a student can reasonably achieve in one year and written in the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Progress toward meeting each annual goal must be documented and shared with parents at the end of each semester.

ANNUAL REVIEW - The annual meeting of the IEP Team to review a student's progress and revise the goals and services listed in the IEP.

APPROPRIATE - Able to adequately address/meet identified needs.

ASSESSMENT - Tests given to a student by qualified professionals to determine the student's current academic levels in such areas as math, reading, and writing.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY - Any device, product, or piece of equipment that improves functional capabilities of an individual with learning disabilities such as walking, hearing, seeing, speaking or learning.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (AT SERVICES) - Assist an individual or a family in selecting, acquiring, maintaining, or using assistive technology.

BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION PLAN - A BIP includes practical and specific strategies and positive supports designed to increase or reduce certain behaviors.

CASE MANAGER - An individual who coordinates and facilitates IEP process/services for a student and family.

CENTER-BASED PROGRAMS - Center based programs are specialized classrooms located in many neighborhood schools across the district. These programs provide an intensive level of support based on the individual needs of the student and access to additional resources and support. Students in center-based programs can demonstrate deficits in academics, behavior, communication, social, emotional, and/or independence that are impacting their access to general education. These students are unable to get their needs met within the neighborhood school setting alone. The process for a center-based program is data driven, an IEP team decision, and the district's Special Education Department must be included in the decision to change a student's placement.

CHILD FIND - A system of identifying children birth to 21 that may have a disability or need special education services.

CHILD FIND PROGRAM - We make sure that young learners having difficulties or delays in development get the help they need to be successful in school. Our child find system helps identify children suspected of having a significant delay in development. The process may begin with a developmental screening and when appropriate, a multidisciplinary evaluation to determine eligibility for preschool through special education.

COMMUNICATION SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT - Communication Social Development (CSD) programs support students identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder who require specialized programming based on their unique needs. Students who come to CSD programs demonstrate significant deficits in functional communication, social skills and/or

restrictive interests/repetitive behaviors that are impacting their access to general education and are unable to get their needs met within the neighborhood school alone.

DUE PROCESS - A formal, legal way to resolve a dispute between parents and a school system regarding a student's IEP.

EVALUATION - A review of assessments and other information, collected from a variety of sources, used to determine a student's eligibility for, and dismissal from, special education services. Evaluation also helps determine what kinds of supports and services a student will receive.

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR SERVICES - Services provided to children during lengthy school breaks from school when evidence shows that a student would otherwise require an inordinate amount of time to regain previously learned skills.

FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION – Students have the right to a free appropriate public education which meets the specific educational needs of a student with a disability as guaranteed by IDEA.

FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT (FBA) - A process for gathering information that can be used to determine why a person is exhibiting unacceptable behavior and what is needed to change the behavior. **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)** - The name of the federal law that guarantees qualified children with disabilities the right to a free appropriate public education.

INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION - Assessment procedures conducted by a qualified individual who is not employed by the public agency responsible for the education of the student.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP) - The legally binding, annually revised document that describes what special education and related services a student is to receive.

IEP TEAM - A multidisciplinary team composed of regular and special education teachers, other professionals, and the parents of the student. The team is responsible for identifying and evaluating children with disabilities who are in need of special education services; developing services, reviewing progress, and revising an IEP; and determining that the student is no longer a student with a disability.

INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN (IFSP) - A legal document that is developed in collaboration with the family and professionals to describe the services provided to an eligible infant or toddler (0 – 3 yrs) and his or her family.

INFANTS & TODDLERS PROGRAM - A statewide program that requires services for children from birth to three years of age, including an individualized family service plan (IFSP) and case management services. Each county administers this program differently.

LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT (LRE) - All children with disabilities have a right to be educated in the least restrictive environment, with supports and services, in which their IEPs can be implemented. This means that a student can be in a class with his non-disabled peers unless the IEP team determines that a different educational setting better meets the individual needs of the student.

MANIFESTATION DETERMINATION - A formal decision about whether a student's inappropriate and/or dangerous behavior is understood by the student and whether the student can control that behavior. A manifestation determination may be required if there is a significant change to a student's IEP placement (suspension of more than 10 days in a school year).

MEDIATION - This is the process of having a trained person try to help parents and the school system reach an agreement.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY - Describes a team approach involving specialists in more than one area, to get a complete picture of a student's needs.

NONPUBLIC PLACEMENT - Parents may choose to pay for their student with disabilities to attend a private school yet still access some special education services from the local public school system through the IEP process. If appropriate public services as determined by the IEP can't be provided, the school system must attempt to secure services and pay for those services through a private program.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OT) - Instruction in skills such as coordination and control of fine motor movements to access educational activities of daily living provided by an occupational therapist.

PHYSICAL THERAPY (PT) - Instruction in skills and adaptation of equipment by a physical therapist to improve a student's muscle strength and normal movement abilities to increase access to the education environment.

PRESENT LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE - as applied to the goals and objectives in an IEP.

POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS - Interventions intended to reduce inappropriate behavior and teach a student appropriate behaviors/skills.

RE-EVALUATION - Once a student becomes eligible to receive special education services, a mandatory reevaluation occurs after three years to determine if the student remains eligible for special education services. A re-evaluation can occur earlier than three years if the student's needs change or if the student has made significant progress.

REFERRAL - The process of requesting an assessment to determine if a student is eligible for special education services.

RELATED SERVICES - Services (documented in the IEP) that must be provided for a student who qualifies for special education in order to benefit from their educational program, i.e. transportation, speech/ occupational/physical therapy/audiologist/social or emotional skill services, etc.

RESIDENTIAL STUDENT CARE FACILITY SERVICES - Educational services provided to a student in a state licensed residential/school facility where a student is living due to the intensive needs of the student.

SCREENING - Screening is the process of reviewing a student's educational situation to see if interventions should be attempted before initiating a referral for special education.

SECTION 504 - A federal anti-discrimination law that requires public schools to provide educational accommodations and curricular modifications to students with disabilities.

SPEECH/LANGUAGE THERAPIST/PATHOLOGIST - A therapist who provides services addressing communication, language and/or voice disorders.

SPEECH THERAPY - A planned program provided by a Speech and Language Therapist/Pathologist to correct or decrease problems with communication, language and/or voice disorders.

SPECIAL EDUCATION - Specifically designed instruction, related services, and supplementary aids and services provided for a student determined to have an educational disability in order to meet the student's unique educational needs.

SUPPLEMENTARY AIDS & SERVICES - Extra aids & services determined by the IEP team to be essential to a student who qualifies for special education services. This could include paraprofessional assistance, adapted curriculum, behavior modification program, assistive technology, etc...

TRANSITION PLAN/TRANSITION SERVICES (FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS RECEIVING EARLY INTERVENTION

SERVICES) - A written plan developed and included as part of the IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan) usually by 24 months of age. It includes the steps to be taken for a smooth transition for all toddlers at 36 months out of the early intervention system and it helps to ensure continuity of services for those children who qualify for special education beyond three years of age.

Acronyms

ABA - Applied Behavior Analysis

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act

ADD/ADHD - Attention deficit disorder/attention deficit hyperactivity disorder ALP - Advanced Learning Plan

ARC - Association for Retarded Citizens ASD - Autism Spectrum Disorder

AT - Assistive Technology

BCBA - Board Certified Behavior Analyst BIP - Behavior Intervention Plan BMHC - Behavior Mental Health Consultant

CBA - Curriculum-Based Assessment CBM - Curriculum-Based Measurement CBP - Center-based Program

CCSS - Common Core State Standards CD - Conduct Disorder

CDE - Colorado Department of Education CEC - Council for Exceptional Children CFS - Community Family Services

CMAS - Colorado Measures of Academic Success COALT - Colorado Alternate

COTA - Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant CP - Cerebral Palsy D

DD - Developmentally Delayed

DHS - Department of Human Services

DIBELS - Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills DOD - Department of Defense DOE - United States Department of Education

ECE - Early Childhood Education

ECSE - Early Childhood Special Educator EFMP - Exceptional Family Member Program

EHCA - Education for all Handicapped Children Act, Public Law 94-142 EI - Early Intervention

ESY - Extended School Year

FAPE - Free & Appropriate Public Education FBA - Functional Behavior Assessment FERPA - Family Educational Rights Privacy Act

HI - Hearing Impairment, Including Deafness HRS - Health and Rehabilitative Services HI - Hearing Impaired

HIPAA - The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

ID - Intellectual Disability

IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act IEP - Individualized Education Program ILP - Individualized Learning Plan

JTPA - Job Training Partnership Act

LDA - Learning Disabilities Association

LEA - Local Education Agency (School Districts or Boards of Cooperative Education Services) LRE - Least Restrictive Environment

MD - Multiple Disabilities

MFLC - Military Family Life Consultant MTSS - Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports N

NASP - National Association of School Psychologists

NICHCY - National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities O

OCR - Office of Civil Rights

ODD - Oppositional Defiant Disorder OHI - Other Health Impairments

OI - Orthopedic Impairment

OSERS - Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services OT - Occupational Therapy/Therapist P

PARCC - Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career

PCS - Permanent Change of Station

PIAT- Peabody Individual Achievement Test

PT - Physical Therapy/Therapist PTA - Physical Therapist Assistant R

READ – Colorado Reading to Ensure Academic Development

SEAC - Special Education Advisory Council SED - Serious Emotional Disability

SID - Sensory Integration Disorder SLD - Specific Learning Disability

SLI - Speech and Language Impairment SO - Special Olympics

SLP - Speech and Language Pathologist

SLPA - Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant SRO - School Resource Officer

SSN - Significant Support Needs

SSS - Office of Student Support Services SST - Student Support Team

TASH - The Association for Severe Handicaps TBI - Traumatic Brain Injury

TRE - The Resource Exchange

VAC - Vocational Adjustment Counselor

VI - Visual Impairment, including Blindness Voc Rehab - Vocational Rehabilitation W

WISC-IV - Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fourth edition WISC-V -Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fifth edition

WRAT - Wide Range Achievement Test

Community Resources

ASD20 Resources

Family Resource Center.....	719-234-5683
Parent Academies.....	719-234-1322
Transportation.....	719-234-1200
Central Registry.....	719-234-1224

Advocacy Support

Parent Resource Center.....	719-599-7772
PEAK Parent Center	719-531-9400
Pikes Peak Partnership.....	719-633-4601
Resources for Young Children & Families	719-577-9190
The Arc of the Pikes Peak Region.....	719-471-4800
Resource Exchange.....	719-380-1100

Legal

Colorado Legal Services	719-471-0380
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Military

Exceptional Family Member Program	719-526-4590
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Other

Department of Human Services.....	719-636-0000
Park and Recreation Department	719-385-5940
Pikes Peak Library District.....	719-531-6333
Ronald McDonald House	719-471-1814
Shriners.....	801-532-5307

Medical Resources

Children’s Hospital – Denver	303-861-8888
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Colorado Student Health Care Plan	800-359-1991
Developmental Pediatrics	719-475-0477
Health Department.....	719-578-3199
Memorial Hospital	719-635-5000
Aspen Point (mental health)	719-572-6330
Visiting Nurses Association	719-577-4448
ACES-ABA.....	719-924-4533

Services

Student Development Center of Colorado Springs.....	719-574-8300
Board of Cooperative Educational Services – Pikes Peak (BOCES).....	719-570-7474
Colorado School for the Deaf & Blind	719-578-2100
Easter Seal Society	719-574-9002
Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado.....	888-378-9779
Head Start.....	719-635-1536
Pikes Peak Therapeutic Riding Center	719-495-3908
Shandy Clinic.....	719-597-0822
The Student Development Center	719-554-9572
The Family Support Center	719-640-5445

Support Foundations

Arthritis Foundation.....	719-520-5711
Autism Society of America - Pikes Peak Chapter	719-630-7072
Cerebral Palsy Association	719-638-0808
Colo. Springs Down Syndrome Association.....	719-633-1133
Colorado Springs Osteopathic Association.....	719-635-9057
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation	719-444-8966
Lending Library – PEAK Parent Center	719-531-6333
March of Dimes	719-473-9981
Muscular Dystrophy Association.....	719-260-8777
Parents Encouraging Parents	303-866-6846
Pikes Peak Center on Deafness.....	719-591-2777; TDD 719-591-2333

Transition

Cheyenne Village, Inc..... 719-592-0200

Goodwill Industries 719-635-4483

