



SEAC Strategies for Success Training Modules: Terms and Definitions

Bylaws: are the operational guidelines or for running a group or organization. Bylaws provide the structure or framework for doing business with stability and continuity.

Compensatory aid: gives additional state funding to school districts.

Excess costs: are costs for serving special education students that go beyond general education revenue that a school district receives for all children to cover basic education costs.

Governing board: governs a public school district. School districts are required to have a school board to govern or administer the state's public education within the local school district. Charter schools are considered to be local school districts so they too must have school boards.

IDEA: is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004), the federal law that requires special education for eligible children with disabilities.

Intermediate school district: is a district with a cooperative program offering integrated services for secondary, postsecondary, and adult students in the areas of vocational education, special education, and other authorized services. Minnesota has three intermediate school districts which receive specialized funding from the state.

Minutes: are official records of what is said or done during a meeting.

Monitoring: provides general supervision and oversight of special education programs in Minnesota public schools, charter schools and care and treatment facilities to ensure compliance with federal and state legislation.

Quorum: is a fixed minimum percentage or number of members of an organization who must be present before the members can conduct valid business.

Referendum: is a vote by those who are eligible to vote on a specific question or questions put to it by a government or similar body.

Regulations: explain how the law itself, in this case IDEA, will be carried out. The federal government regulations have the force of law.

Related services: are supportive services to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education. Examples include transportation, speech-language pathology, physical and occupational therapy, counseling, school health services, school social work services, and parent counseling and training.

Related services personnel: are the people who provide services such as those given above.

Roberts's rules of order: is a guide on how to run meetings in an orderly and fair way.

Special education director: is the person within a school district, cooperative, or intermediate school district who is responsible for program development, coordination, and evaluation; in-service training; and general special education supervision and administration in the district's total special education system. According to Minnesota special education rules (3525.2405), each school district, individually or cooperatively, must employ a director of special education. Sometimes this position has another name such as director of student services.

Special Education cooperative: A cooperative is a group of school districts banding together to increase educational opportunities for learners by increasing cooperation and coordination among school districts.

State statute: is a law passed by the Minnesota Legislature.

Supplementary aid: is given by the state to provide money to school districts to education children. The federal government supplements, or adds to, that financial aid for children with disabilities.