

# Acronyms and the Law

Listed below are acronyms related to early intervention, education, special education, and other laws important to individuals with disabilities and their families. For related information, also read Acronyms and Agencies.

Acronym	Law
ADA	<b>The Americans with Disabilities Act.</b> The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the areas of employment, public transportation, telecommunications, access to public services programs, and activities of state and local governments, as well as those of commercial facilities, private businesses, and nonprofit service providers. The ADA was signed into law July 26, 1990.
CFR	<b>Code of Federal Regulations.</b> The regulations of federal agencies as published in the Federal Register. (The federal regulations for the implementation of the IDEA 2004 were published in the August 14, 2006, Federal Register, Part II, Department of Education, 34 CFR Parts 300 and 30.)
DD Act	<b>Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.</b> This Act supports state developmental disabilities councils, state protection and advocacy agencies, university centers on disabilities, and other projects of national significance to enhance the independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities.
EDGAR	<b>Education Department General Administrative Regulations.</b> These establish uniform administrative requirements for federal grants and agreements awarded to institutions of higher education, hospitals, and other nonprofit organizations. Entities that apply for and receive federal grant funds must follow EDGAR regulations.
EHA	<b>Education of the Handicapped Act (now Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).</b> The name of the original 1975 legislation entitling children and youth with disabilities to a free appropriate public education (FAPE).
ESEA	<b>The Elementary and Secondary Education Act.</b> This law contains several federal programs designed to address the needs of disadvantaged students. The largest, Title 1 (formerly Chapter 1), is designed to ensure that students in high poverty schools meet high standards. The law was amended in 2001 to strengthen provisions around high state standards for all students, accountability for schools and districts that continually underperform, and strong parental involvement and quality program requirements for schools and districts receiving Title 1 funds. The law is also known as No Child Left Behind.
FAPE	<b>Free and Appropriate Public Education.</b> A right provided to students with disabilities eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.



Technical Assistance ALLIANCE  
 for Parent Centers  
 8161 Normandale Blvd.  
 Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044  
 952.838.9000  
 952.838.0190 TTY  
 952.838.0199 fax  
 888.248.0822 National Toll-free  
 alliance@taalliance.org

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FERPA	<b>Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.</b> Legislation giving parents the right to inspect and review their child’s educational records, to amend errors or inaccuracies in those records, and to consent to disclosure of records.
FOIA	<b>Freedom of Information Act.</b> Enacted in 1966, this law entitles any person to the right to request access to federal agency records or information. There are some exemptions and exclusions that apply. Nearly all state governments have FOIA-type statutes that apply to state and local public agencies.
IDEA	<b>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (formerly EHA).</b> This law states that children with disabilities have the right to a free appropriate public education, including procedural protections and the right to an education that is standards based. The latest amendments to this special education law were passed in 2004.
NCLB	<b>No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.</b> In 2001, the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (see ESEA) included No Child Left Behind, which requires states to set standards for student performance and teacher quality, and established accountability for the educational performance of disadvantaged students.
NPRM	<b>Notice of Proposed Rule Making.</b> A formal notice that a federal agency proposes to publish new or amended regulations to enact a law (such as IDEA). The proposed regulations are issued in the Federal Register for public review and comment. The NPRM designation indicates that these are proposed regulations, out for public comment. Once finalized, regulations are published in the Federal Register as Final Rules and Regulations.
PASS	<b>Plan for Achieving Self-Support.</b> A part of the SSI statute that permits the exclusion of income and resources of individuals who are blind or disabled, if an individual needs such income/resources to fulfill an approved PASS. PASS allows income to be set aside in order to reach a goal toward independence, such as starting a business, going to school, or obtaining training for a job. PASS set-aside money does not reduce SSI benefits.
The Perkins Act	<b>The Carl Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act.</b> The purpose of this act is to develop more fully the academic, vocational, and technical skills of secondary and postsecondary students who choose to enroll in vocational and technical education programs. The act applies to the general population and to the following special populations: individuals with disabilities; individuals from economically disadvantaged families, including foster children; individuals preparing for nontraditional training and employment; single parents; single pregnant women; displaced homemakers; and individuals with limited English proficiency.
§	This symbol means “Section” as in “§300.8 Child with a disability” as written in the IDEA regulations.
Section 504	<b>Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.</b> A civil rights statute designed to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Some individuals who do not qualify for services under IDEA may receive services and/or accommodations under Section 504.
SSDI	<b>Social Security Disability Insurance.</b> Cash benefits paid to individuals who are blind or have other disabilities and who have previously worked under (i.e., paid into) Social Security.
SSI	<b>Supplemental Security Income.</b> A supplemental cash benefits program administered by the Social Security Administration for individuals who are blind or have other disabilities who have little or no income or resources.
TWWIIA	<b>Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act.</b> Landmark legislation enabling individuals with disabilities to become employed without losing Medicare or Medicaid coverage provided to those who are unemployed and receiving Social Security Disability Insurance and/or Supplemental Security Income. This act allows individuals to buy into these coverages when they stop receiving disability benefits upon gainful employment. Other provisions of the act give individuals the ability to obtain vocational rehabilitation and/or other support services.