

Education Related Terminology

The following terms may be used when working with military children with special needs who are receiving certain kinds of educational benefits due to disabilities. The DoD has policies to ensure that children with special needs have access to the provision of early intervention and special education services when they qualify, in accordance with the federal law (called IDEA). While many of the following terms reflect the language of IDEA because military installations may be providing the actual delivery of programs, there are additional acronyms and terms that are unique to working with military children (and which are not observed in the civilian public system, for example). Of note, on military installations, some early intervention programming may happen in collaboration with Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) and Family Advocacy (FAP) Programs so it is important to have access to information about both military health and educational systems.

Full Name	Acronym	Description
504 Plan	—	A plan of accommodations implemented in the school environment for those with qualifying disabilities (but who may not meet criteria for services under IDEA). The name is derived from Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which provides access to accommodations for individuals with qualifying disabilities.
Alternative Education Setting	AES	A temporary setting (in or out of school) in which the youth can continue in a learning environment following a disciplinary action.
Assistive Technology	AT	Any item, product, or program designed to enhance functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.
Behavioral Intervention Plan	BIP	A formal plan of intervention targeting specific behaviors, which is typically developed after a Functional Behavioral Assessment and includes progress monitoring.
Category of Eligibility	—	Under IDEA, there are 14 categories of eligibility for which a youth may be determined eligible to receive special education services. These categories are:

		Autism, Deaf/Blind, Deafness, Developmental Delay (up to 7 years of age), Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment (includes ADHD), Specific Learning Disability, Speech or Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, Visual Impairment (including blindness).
Child-Find	—	Within the DoD, child-find is the outreach program designed to locate, identify, and evaluate children from birth to age 21, inclusive, who may require EIS or special education and related services. Of note, outside the DoD, “Child Find” usually references the outreach program more closely aligned with early intervention services.
Continuum of Placement Options	—	The range of options available to serve a student with special needs, to include: general education classes, special classes, special schools, home instruction, and instruction in hospitals and institutions; includes provision for supplementary services (such as resource room or itinerant instruction) to be provided in conjunction with regular class placement.
Case study committee	CSC	A term used for the group of people who meet to determine needs under IDEA when working in a DoDEA school.
Educational and Developmental Intervention Services	EDIS	Programs operated by military departments to be in compliance with providing early intervention and special education services.
Early Intervention Services	EIS	The group of special education interventions provided for recipients under Part C of IDEA, namely infants and toddlers (birth to 3 years of age).
Free appropriate public education	FAPE	An educational entitlement of all U.S. students who are eligible for services under 504 or IDEA. The concept recognizes the rights of all students to be served by the public school system in an equitable manner that is free to families, regardless of disability status or need.

Functional Behavioral Assessment	FBA	A type of assessment which aims to describe a behavior in the context of antecedents (what happens before) and consequences (what happens after) to enhance understanding of why a behavior occurs when and how it does, often to support development of targeted intervention plans.
Intellectual Disability	ID	An IDEA federal category of eligibility, as well as a term describing limitations in both cognitive functioning and adaptive skills compared to expectations for an individual's age.
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	IDEA	The federal law that stipulates eligibility criteria, process of determination, and development of individualized service plans for youth (birth up to 21 years of age) with disabilities who are U.S. citizens. Part B stipulates programs for special education (ages 3 to 21 years of age) and Part C stipulates programs for early intervention (birth up to 3 years of age).
Individualized Education Plan/Program	IEP	After establishing eligibility for special education under IDEA, an IEP is developed as a plan that guides delivery of education to meet a child's unique learning needs.
Individualized Family Service Plan	IFSP	After establishing eligibility for early intervention services under Part C of IDEA, the plan developed to support the infant/toddler and associated family members in order to provide specialized intervention services in the infant/toddler's natural environment (which could include home, daycare, preschool, etc.).
Learning Disability	LD	An IDEA federal category of eligibility, as well as a term describing limitations in an individual's achievement in a particular academic skill set or domain.
Local Education Agency	LEA	Within a state, a public authority (such a public board of education) that administratively controls public primary and secondary schools within its zone.
Least Restrictive Environment	LRE	A stipulation within IDEA that students with disabilities have the right to receive their education

		in environments with nondisabled peers in the regular education setting to the greatest degree possible. The term creates a conceptual continuum of placements that go from less restrictive (full-time general education classroom) to most restrictive (full-time special education classroom or pull-out scenario).
Manifestation Determination	MD	Should a child with an IEP exhibit a behavior reaching a threshold for significant disciplinary action, this type of meeting is held to determine the extent to which the incident was related to the child's special needs and/or placement. Disciplinary actions and next steps are guided by the findings from the meeting.
Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission	MIC3	A joint effort between the DoD and the Council of State Governments to establish guidelines to ease the transition of military students (when they move) relative to eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation.
Non-DoD School Programs	NDSP	A general DoD term to signify the important non-DoD programs and services of public school systems and federal laws that could impact a military student.
School Liaison Officer	SLO	Civilians who are contracted through each branch of service to provide School Support Services. They help to build partnerships between military families, installations, and schools and act as the Installation's point of contact for all things school related.
Special Education	SPED	A general term referring to the services received by students who are eligible under Part B of IDEA.