

APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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Special Education Terms/Legal Terms

Annual Goals – Educational performance to be achieved by a student within one year.

Annual Review – Student with disabilities is required by law to have an educational program that is reviewed each year. A review involves an updating of the student's progress and planning his/her educational programs.

Assistive Technology – Services and equipment that enhance the ability of students to be more efficient and successful.

Audiologist – A specialist who is concerned with studying the nature of hearing, administering hearing tests to detect possible hearing loss, and giving information about hearing aids, training programs, and medical treatment.

Autism – A developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age three, that adversely affects a child's educational performance. Other characteristics often associated with autism are engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines, and unusual responses to sensory experiences. The term does not apply if a child's educational performance is adversely affected primarily because the child has emotional disturbance, as defined in IDEA (Individual with Disabilities Education Act).

Behavior Modification – A technique of changing human behavior, based on a system of positive and negative reinforcement. Emphasis is on observable behaviors and what events precede and follow them.

Cerebral Palsy – A group of conditions caused by brain damage usually occurring before or during birth or during the developmental years. Marked especially by impaired muscle control, language, speech, psychological, or learning problems. There are many types of cerebral palsy and it expresses itself differently in each person.

Confidentiality – Precautions an individual other than the student's parent must take in not revealing information, without consent, about a specific student, to someone who is not directly involved with that student.

Consent – (1) fully informing the parent of all information relevant to the activity for which consent is sought, in his or her native language, or other mode of communication, (2) the parent understands and agrees in writing to the carrying out the activity for which his or her consent is sought, and the consent describes that activity and lists the records (if any) that will be released and to whom, and (3) the parent understands that the granting of consent is voluntary on the part of the parent and may be revoked at any time.

Deafness – A hearing impairment that is so severe that the student is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance. IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Deaf-Blindness – Concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness. IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Down Syndrome- A condition caused by chromosomal abnormality with a number of physical characteristics and varying degrees of mental retardation.

Due Process Hearing – Formal procedure for reviewing disagreements so as to insure that an individual is given an opportunity to present his/her side of an issue to an independent due process hearing officer.

Educational Surrogate Parent – Person assigned to act in place of parents or guardians when a student’s parents or guardians are not known or are unavailable, or when a student is a ward of the state. This person functions in the same way a parent or guardian would.

Emotional Disturbance – A condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance: (1) an inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or other health factors; (2) an inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers; (3) inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances; (4) a general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression; or (5) a tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems. The term includes schizophrenia. The term does not apply to children who are socially maladjusted, unless it is determined that they have an emotional disturbance. IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Extended School Year/Day – Purpose is to prevent serious regression of previously learned skills that cannot be regained in a reasonable length of time with the intent being to maintain IEP goals and objectives, not to introduce new skills.

Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) – Special education and related services are provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, without charge. The free appropriate public education meets the standards of the state educational agency including preschool, elementary, or secondary school education and is provided in conformity with an individualized education program requirement of IDEA.

Guardian – A person who has qualified as a guardian of a minor or incapacitated person pursuant to testamentary or court appointment, but excludes one who is merely a guardian ad litem.

Hearing Impairment – An impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance but that is not included under the definition of deafness. IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Individualized Education Program (IEP) – A written document for a student with disabilities that is developed and implemented to meet unique educational needs.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) – Describes procedures to ensure that, to the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities are educated with students who are not disabled.

Intellectual Disability – Significantly subaverage general intellectual functioning existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and manifested during the developmental period, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance. IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Notice – Mandatory written notice provided to parents before the school’s proposal or refusal to initiate or change the student’s identification, evaluation, or educational placement. Notice in the parent’s native language must also be provided in advance of any scheduled IEP meetings.

Occupational Therapy – Use of purposeful activity with individuals who are limited by physical injury or illness, psychosocial dysfunction, developmental or learning disabilities, poverty and cultural differences, or the aging process with the purpose being to maximize independence, prevent disability, and maintain health. The therapy encompasses evaluation, treatment, and consultation.

Orthopedic Impairment – A severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child’s educational performance. Includes impairments caused by congenital anomaly (e.g., clubfoot, absence of some member, etc.), impairments caused by disease (e.g., poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis, etc.), and impairments from other causes (e.g., cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures). IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Other Health Impairment – Having limited strengths, vitality or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment, that – is due to chronic or acute health problems such as asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, and sickle cell anemia and adversely affects a child’s educational performance. IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Physical Therapy – The art and science of a health specialty concerned with the prevention of disability and the physical rehabilitation for congenital or acquired disabilities resulting from, or secondary to, injury or disease. The practice of physical therapy means the practice of the health specialty, and encompasses physical therapy evaluation, treatment planning, instruction and consultative services.

Procedural Safeguards – Precautions taken to insure that an individual’s rights are not denied without due process of law.

Psychologist – A person with an advanced degree who specializes in administering and evaluating psychological tests including intelligence, aptitude, and interest tests. A psychologist could also provide counseling and apply principles of human behavior.

Reevaluations – Required at least every three years for each special education student.

Referral – Initial step in the special education process; referrals for evaluation can be made by anyone associated with the student.

Related Services – Transportation and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services as required to assist a student with disabilities to benefit from education, and includes speech pathology and audiology, psychological services, physical and occupational therapies, recreation, early identification and assessment for diagnostic or evaluation purposes as well as school health services, social work services in schools and parent counseling and training.

Resource Room – An area within a school where individual students may spend part of the day for supplemental help with academics.

Special Education – Specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parent, to meet the unique needs of a student with disabilities.

Specific Learning Disability: A disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations, including conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. The term does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, of mental retardation, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage. IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Speech or Language Impairment – A communication disorder, such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment, or a voice impairment, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance. IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Speech Therapy – The process for remediation of speech disorders such as stuttering, lisping, misarticulation, conducted by a qualified speech-language pathologist on an individualized or small group basis.

Traumatic Brain Injury – An acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance. The term applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas, such as cognition; language; memory;

attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgement; problem-solving; sensory, perceptual and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical function; information processing; and speech. The term does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative, or brain injuries induced by birth trauma. IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Visual Impairment Including Blindness – An impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child’s educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness. IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Ward of the State – “Ward” being synonymous with person for whom a guardian has been appointed. A “minor ward” being a minor for whom a guardian has been appointed solely because of minority.

Special Education Abbreviations

ADD/ADHD – Attention Deficit Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

APE – Adaptive Physical Education

COTA – Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant

CP – Cerebral Palsy

ED – Emotionally Disturbed

ESY – Extended School Year

FAPE – Free Appropriate Public Education

FERPA – Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act

HI – Hearing Impaired

ID - Intellectual Disability

IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

IEP – Individualized Education Program

IFSP – Individual Family Service Plan

IQ – Intelligence Quotient

LRE – Least Restrictive Environment

NDDPI/DPI – North Dakota Department of Public Instruction/Department of Public Instruction

OCR – Office of Civil Rights

OHI – Other Health Impaired

OI – Orthopedically Impaired

OT – Occupational Therapy or Occupational Therapist

PE – Physical Education

PL – Public Law

PT – Physical Therapy or Physical Therapist

ROM – Range of Motion

SLP – Speech Language Pathologist

STO – Short Term Objective

TBI – Traumatic Brain Injury

TDD – Telecommunications Device for the Deaf

VI – Visually Impaired