

Common Educational Abbreviations and Acronyms

Educators often use abbreviations and acronyms that can be confusing. Compiled by MSBA, this non-comprehensive list deciphers some of the jargon you may encounter in your board service.

ACT—a national college entrance exam designed to measure both achievement and ability in English, reading, math and science. Administered to all Grade 11 students in Missouri public and charter schools, except students who are eligible for the MAP-Alternate.

ABA–Applied Behavior Analysis—the science of analyzing behavior within the environment in which it occurs to bring about positive change; an intervention for child with autism spectrum disorders and other behavior concerns.

ADA–Average Daily Attendance—total number of hours pupils attend classes in a school district during a reporting period, divided by the number of hours school is actually in session during that period; used in calculating state aid.

ADA–Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990—Federal law that prohibits discrimination in employment and other situations against individuals with disabilities.

AFT Missouri—Missouri affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers.

AP–Advanced Placement—refers to advanced level high school courses sponsored by the College Board that provides an opportunity for students who pass the College Board exam to earn college credit prior to graduation.

APR–Annual Performance Report—annual report generated by Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that indicates the district’s performance on the standards used to determine district accreditation.

ASBR–Annual Secretary of the Board Report—contains information such as revenues, expenditures, fund balances, debt and transportation data that are used for various data comparisons.

ASVAB–Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery—measures abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military.

AV–Assessed Valuation

AVTS–Area Vocational Technical School

BOD–Board of Directors

BSE–Board Self-Evaluation—a tool available for MSBA member boards to assess their own effectiveness in demonstrating board beliefs and practices correlated by research to high student achievement.

CBM–Certified Board Member—the term MSBA uses for board members who have completed the 16 hours of state-mandated board training.

CCSS–Common Core State Standards—academic standards, in English language arts and mathematics, developed as part of national education reform for the purpose of bringing diverse state curricula into alignment with each other.

COMPASS—a computer-adaptive college placement test that evaluates students’ skill levels in reading, writing skills, math and English as a second language.

CSIP—Comprehensive School Improvement Plan—the local district written strategic plan that directs the overall improvement of its educational program and services and addresses all major concerns identified by their MSIP review.

CTE—Career and Technical Education—career and technical programs of study that provides student with experience in aspects of industry.

DESE—Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

DVM—Dollar Value Modifier—factor in state funding formula to account for higher cost of living in various counties.

ECSE—Early Childhood Special Education

ELL—English Language Learner—student who is actively learning English and who may benefit from various types of language support programs.

eMINTS—enhancing Missouri’s Instructional Network of Teaching Strategies—a research-based approach that involves intensive professional development from the eMINTS National Center to fully incorporate technology into classroom instruction to enhance student learning.

EOC—End of Course Assessment—the portion of the Missouri Assessment Program that assesses high school students’ knowledge of Missouri’s Course-Level Expectations (CLEs).

ESEA—Elementary and Secondary Education Act—federal legislation reauthorized in 2001 as No Child Left Behind. Reauthorized in 2015 as the Every Student Succeeds Act.

ESL—English as a Second Language—refers to the study of English by students with a different native language.

ESSA—Every Student Succeeds Act—The 2015 reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

FACS—Family and Consumer Sciences—courses that address the knowledge and skills needed for home and family life as well as those needed to succeed in related careers.

FAPE—Free Appropriate Public Education—a provision of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that requires regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet individual needs of students with disabilities.

FERPA—Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act—Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records.

F/R or FRL—Free and Reduced or Free and Reduced Lunch—refers to students who qualify for free or reduced lunch based on family income guidelines; frequently used as an indicator of poverty; impacts district funding.

FY—Fiscal Year

GASB–Government Accounting Standards Board—the agency that sets the standards, which impact school district audits.

IB–International Baccalaureate— a program of rigorous academic studies to prepare students for universities around the world; sponsored by the International Baccalaureate Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

IDEA–Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—federal law that requires the provision of special education and related services and other safeguards to children with disabilities.

IEP–Individualized Education Plan—a document required by federal law (IDEA) that details the special education requirements for each student with a disability and explains how the school intends to address the student's needs.

LEA–Local Education Agency—term used to designate a public school district.

LEP–Limited English Proficiency—limited ability in speaking, reading, writing or understanding English due to a native language different than English.

LND–Level Not Determined- the percent of students for whom the district is accountable but do not receive a valid MAP score in a subject or content area.

LRE–Least Restrictive Environment—provision of federal law (IDEA) that requires a student who has a disability the opportunity to be educated with non-disabled peers, to the greatest extent possible.

MAP–Missouri Assessment Program—the system for assessment and the specific test that is used to measure student achievement in Missouri schools in a variety of grade levels in the core subjects of English language arts, math, social studies and science.

MAP-A-Map-Alternate–Missouri’s Alternative Assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

MAESP–Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals

MASA–Missouri Association of School Administrators

MASSP–Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals

MCDS–Missouri Comprehensive Data System—state-level longitudinal data system that allows school personnel and the public to access education-related data.

MLS–Missouri Learning Standards—define the knowledge and skills students need in each grade level and course for success in college, other post-secondary training and careers.

MNEA–Missouri National Education Association—state affiliate of the National Education Association.

MoASBO–Missouri Association of School Business Officials

MOSIS–Missouri Student Information System—a system designed to help the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) better meet the needs for high quality data for decision making and for state and federal reporting.

MSBA–Missouri School Boards’ Association

MSIP–Missouri School Improvement Program—state system of public school accountability and accreditation mandated by law (State Board Rule and Senate Bill 380).

MSHSAA–Missouri State High School Activities Association

MSTA–Missouri State Teachers Association

NAEP–National Assessment of Educational Progress—a national standardized assessment administered periodically as a measure of what students know and can do in various subject areas. Results serve as a common metric for all states.

NCLB–No Child Left Behind Act—the 2001 reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Some provisions have been superseded by Missouri’s ESEA Waiver. Reauthorized in 2015 as the Every Child Succeeds Act.

NSBA–National School Boards Association

P-20–Preschool through College Enrollment—initiative to align/coordinate instruction and services for students from preschool through the first two years of college to ensure student success.

OT–Occupational Therapist or Occupational Therapy

PAT–Parents as Teachers—program of services to child development knowledge and parenting support for parents of children below kindergarten entry.

PD–Professional Development

PDC–Professional Development Committee

PRAXIS—the assessments required for the certification of teachers and student services personnel in Missouri.

PSRS–Public School Retirement System

PT–Physical Therapist or Physical Therapy

REC–Regional Executive Committee—part of the MSBA governance structure that includes representatives from each of MSBA’s 17 regions.

RPDC–Regional Professional Development Center—nine centers established by DESE to provide a range of professional development and technical assistance services to teachers, administrators, and school districts.

RTI–Response to Intervention—a model which integrates assessment and intervention within a multi-level prevention system to maximize student achievement and to reduce behavior problems; also a

process that can be used to determine identification of a specific learning disability (under federal law, IDEA).

SAT–Scholastic Aptitude Test—an assessment instrument used to measure ability that is used as admission criterion for some colleges and universities.

SLP–Speech Language Pathologist

SEA–State Education Agency

SRO–School Resource Officer

TAN–Tax Anticipatory Note—a mechanism which allows districts to borrow money during a fiscal year in anticipation of repayment upon receipt of local taxes after December 31.

TIF–Tax Increment Financing— A method of financing economic development projects in “blighted” or “conservation” areas within cities or counties. Although the assessed value of such projects is frozen, such projects are expected to result in an increase of property values and related tax revenues (incremental taxes).

TIF–Teacher Incentive Fund—federal grant program that supports efforts to develop and implement performance-based teacher and principal compensation systems in high-need schools.

Vocational VRE–Vocational Resource Educator—non-teaching professional who serves as a resource for vocational education placement and support for students with disabilities.

For more information or to recommend additions to this list, please contact:

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