

Common Educational Abbreviations and Acronyms

Educators often use abbreviations and acronyms that can be confusing. 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.

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 funding for school districts.

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—high school courses that are rigorous and offer college-level work to high school students. Taking an AP exam may lead to college credit and help prepare students for college.

APR–Annual Performance Report—annual report generated by Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that indicates the district’s performance on the Missouri School Improvement Program 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/BOE–Board of Directors or Board of Education

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 and continuous improvement.

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

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

CSIP–Continuous School Improvement Plan—the district written strategic plan that directs the overall improvement of its educational program and services.

CTE–Career and Technical Education—career and technical programs of study that provides students 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

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

ELA—English Language Arts—one of the subject areas addressed in the Missouri Learning Standards and Missouri Assessment Program

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 passed in 1965; 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.

ESY—Extended School Year—a provision of the Individuals with Disabilities 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.

FMLA—Family Medical Leave Act is a federal regulation that allows eligible employees to take up to 12 work weeks of unpaid leave during any 12 month period for specific health reasons.

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

FY—Fiscal Year

IB—International Baccalaureate—a program of rigorous academic studies to prepare high school students for postsecondary education.

HIPPA—Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act—law that protects the privacy of individually identifiable health information.

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 and related services required for an eligible student with a disability to participate in regular education.

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

LEP—Limited English Proficiency—used to describe students who have not yet fully mastered the English language.

LMC—Library Media Center

LND—Level Not Determined—the percent of students for whom the district is accountable to assess but did not receive a valid MAP score.

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 state system that assesses students' progress toward mastery of the Missouri Learning Standards in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

MAP-A or Map-Alternate—Missouri's Alternative Assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who meet grade level and eligibility criteria.

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

MOCAP—Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program—offers Missouri students equal access to a wide range of high quality courses and interactive online learning that is neither time nor place dependent.

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.

MPI-MAP Performance Index

MSBA–Missouri School Boards’ Association—a private, not-for profit organization that exists to help local school boards ensure all students succeed. MSBA provides board member training, comprehensive policy support, legal assistance, superintendent search guidance, and other services designed to allow school boards to put maximum resources in the classroom.

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

MTSS-Multi-Tiered System of Support

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.

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.

OCR–Office for Civil Rights

OSS–Out of School Suspension

OT–Occupational Therapist or Occupational Therapy

PAT–Parents as Teachers—program of services that provides training and support for parents of children from prenatal through kindergarten.

PBS/PBIS–Positive Behavior Support or Positive Behavior Intervention and Support

PD–Professional Development

PDC–Professional Development Committee

PLC–Professional Learning Committee—a model for school improvement in which teachers collaborate regularly to improve student learning.

PLTW–Project Lead the Way—a program that helps give middle and high school students the rigorous education to develop strong backgrounds in science and engineering.

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 Missouri School Boards’ Association (MSBA) governance structure that includes representatives from each of MSBA’s 17 regions.

RPDC–Regional Professional Development Center—centers established by the Missouri Department of Education 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 respond to student learning and behavior challenges.

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

SSO–School Safety Officer

Strategic Plan—see also CSIP-Continuous School Improvement Plan.

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.

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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