

In education, as in most specialized professions, educators use terms that may be unfamiliar to the general public. It's not surprising that parents and others new to public schools often feel confused. This list of the more commonly used acronyms or abbreviations and their meanings has been developed to assist everyone in public schools communicate more effectively.

**AR** – Accelerated Reader; Testing other than the CSAP to monitor student progress throughout the year.

**ASR** – Annual School Report-These are created by the SAC's and administration of each school in a district. The purpose of the report is to highlight the school's achievements, the overall SIP goals for the year, as well as report goals to the community members of the school

**AYP** – Adequate Yearly Progress; states and school districts are required to make annual Adequate Yearly Progress determinations for districts and schools, respectively. The ultimate goal of AYP is to have all students proficient in reading and math by the year 2014. This includes all students who are SPED.

**BEAR** - Testing other than the CSAP to monitor student progress throughout the year.

**BOE** – SAC acronym for the Douglas County Board of Education. Members are elected at large and seven members on the Douglas County Board of Education represent different parts of the county. Board members serve staggered terms of four years.

**CDE** – Colorado Department of Education; supports and serves 178 school districts and their work to provide quality learning for more than 800,000 students statewide. CDE also serves adult education and the state's libraries.

**CSAPs** - Colorado Student Assessment Program; measures student performance on Colorado model content standards. Beginning in 1997, CSAP tests have been given to students statewide, starting with reading and writing, and tests in additional curriculum areas in several grades are being added each year. CSAP should be used primarily as a big picture tool to help districts make sure their local standards, curriculum and teaching methods align with the states model standards. The CDE says CSAP is not intended to:

- be used as a diagnostic tool for individual students;
  - measure the performance of the same group of students from year to year;
- answer all the questions about a school or district's instructional practices;
- provide the only measure of student achievement.

**CSBE** - Colorado State Board of Education; Members of the Colorado State Board of Education are charged by the Colorado Constitution with the general supervision of the public schools. They have numerous powers and duties specified in state law. Individuals are elected on a partisan basis to serve six-year terms without pay.

**CSNAP** – A DCSD program used to analyze CSAP data.

**DAC** – District Advisory Committee; provides opportunities for parents and community members to become informed about and to be involved in the planning and evaluation of the School District’s instructional program and quality improvement processes. The DAC reviews and makes recommendations to the Board of Education concerning the School Advisory Council’s plans to improve the educational achievement in the school’s, focusing on methods of maximizing graduation rates from the District’s secondary schools, and increasing the ratings of the school’s accreditation category. The DAC, following consultation with the School Advisory Council, makes recommendations to the Board of Education relative to the prioritization of expenditures of School District moneys. Evening monthly meetings of the District Advisory Committee are held the second Tuesday, commencing in September.

**DIBELS** - Testing other than the CSAP to monitor student progress in reading throughout the year. Mainly used for grades K-3.

**DRA** – Developmental Reading Assessment; A district mandate assessment used for monitoring student progress in reading in grades K-3; 4-8 for students on an ILP. Testing other than the CSAP to monitor student progress throughout the year.

**ESL** - English as a Second Language is a method of helping students who do not speak English to acquire it quickly. ESL differs from bilingual education in that there is no use of the student’s native language. Whereas bilingual education uses the student’s native language as a bridge to help the student transition into English, or even helps the student to become fluent (bilingual) in both their native language and English, ESL’s goal is to teach English language only. School districts often favor ESL over bilingual education because it is less expensive (bilingual teachers and teaching materials are difficult to find and are costly), even though research points to more benefits of helping students to become bilingual.

**IEP**-Individual Education Plan-A specific document written for student who qualify and have been determined to have a learning disability as identified under Special Education.

**ILP**- Individual Literacy Plan-this is a plan written for students who are reading below grade level or have a deficiency in one of the 5 areas of literacy-Phonics, Phonemic Awareness, Fluency, Vocabulary, or comprehension.

**LEP**- Limited English Proficient or Proficiency; Refers to an adult or out-of-school youth who has limited ability in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language, and whose native language is a language other than English, or who lives in a family or community environment where a language other than English is the dominant language.

**MAPs** – Testing other than the CSAP to monitor student progress throughout the year.

**NCLB** - No Child Left Behind; The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) -- the main federal law affecting education from kindergarten through high school.

**NWEA** - A testing program other than the CSAP to monitor student progress throughout the year.

**SAC** – School Advisory Council; provide opportunities for parents, staff, and community members to be involved in the planning and evaluation of their individual school's instruction programs along with being a representative voice for the community. They make recommendations to the school principal on the school-wide action planning and goals for improvement, as well as the school budgeting process.

**SAR** - The School Accountability Report (SAR) is created by Colorado Department of Education and summarizes information about schools so parents can compare schools through this report. It includes information about individual schools across Colorado. Among many other items, you can learn about a school's academic performance, CSAP results, safety and discipline incidents, student/teacher ratio, teacher qualifications and how taxpayer dollars are spent.

**SBE** - State Board of Education; As described on their website, "Members of the Colorado State Board of Education are charged by the Colorado Constitution with the general supervision of the public schools. They have numerous powers and duties specified in state law. Individuals are elected on a partisan basis to serve six-year terms without pay."

**SEP** - Student educational plan; An individualized plan for instruction that assists a learner in achieving his/her goals.

**SIP** – School Improvement Plan; A plan that includes strategies for improving student performance, how and when improvements will be implemented, use of state funds, requests for waivers, etc.

**SPED** – Special Education; refers to education for students who may require additional support to be successful students. It also refers to education for those students who will not be able to compete in a regular classroom setting. Since in the US, all children are entitled to receive an education, even those children who lack the mental abilities to take on more advanced education are offered schooling which can help them master basic skills.

**SPL** – Student Performance Level; A standard description of a student's (ESOL) language ability at a given level in terms of speaking, listening, reading, writing, and the ability to communicate with a native speaker; a profile of skill levels for a student can thus be assigned and used for placement, instructional, or reporting purposes.