



Key Acronyms in Early Childhood & Special Education

Acronym	Reference Link	Definition
AAC	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	Augmentative and Alternative Communication AAC means all of the ways that someone communicates besides talking. People of all ages can use AAC if they have trouble with speech or language skills. Augmentative means to add to someone's speech. Alternative means to be used instead of speech. Some people use AAC throughout their life. Others may use AAC only for a short time, like when they have surgery and can't talk.
AAP	American Academy of Pediatrics	An organization of 67,000 pediatricians committed to the optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.
AASC	Academic Alliance of South Carolina	The mission of the Academic Alliance South Carolina is to research and disseminate evidence-based practices to inform, implement, and sustain an integrated academic and behavioral framework within a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) to improve the academic achievement and social competence of students with disabilities.
ABA	Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)	Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is a kind of research-based behavior therapy for people with autism and other developmental disorders. Its goal is to see an increase in positive behaviors and a decrease in negative behaviors. Children can also learn new skills and improve their social interactions.
ACESD	Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities	The South Carolina Advisory Council for Educating Students with Disabilities (ACESD) advises the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) of unmet educational needs of children served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Specifically, the Advisory Council comments on: Proposed regulatory changes, Data and reports, Policies involving service coordination, and Corrective actions defined by the federal monitoring process.
ACF	Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	An operating division of the Department of Health and Human Services that promotes the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities by providing federal leadership, partnership and resources for the compassionate and effective delivery of human services.

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)	A federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in everyday activities, such as employment opportunities, purchasing goods and services, and participating in state and local government programs.
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder	ADD is no longer used in the medical community. It is now thought to be a subtype of ADHD.
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a developmental disorder marked by persistent symptoms of inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity. Some people mostly have symptoms of inattention. Others mostly have symptoms of hyperactivity and impulsivity. Some people have both types of symptoms.
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution	More than ever, employers and employees are turning to mediation and other forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to resolve equal employment opportunity (EEO) disputes. While the proliferation of public and private sector ADR programs has been a boon for employers and employees alike, many mediators have sought guidance on how to ensure that the mediation process is accessible to participants with disabilities. Mediators also have raised questions about special considerations that may arise when mediating employment cases alleging discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehabilitation Act).
AOTA	American Occupational Therapy Association	AOTA serves the occupational therapy community through its unparalleled standards setting, legislative & regulatory advocacy, practice, and professional development resources and support essential to enabling OTPs to thrive throughout all career stages and practice settings.
APA	American Psychological Association	APA is the leading scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States, with 172,000 researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants, and students as its members.
APR	Annual Performance Report	Education Department-wide annual plans and performance reports describe the goals and intended outcomes of U.S. Department of Education programs and initiatives. Annual strategies and targets are published in performance plans in advance of each fiscal year; results are reported in annual performance and accountability reports following the fiscal year end.
APTA	American Physical Therapy Association	The American Physical Therapy Association is an individual membership professional organization representing 100,000 member physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students of physical therapy.
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder	Autism spectrum disorder is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn, and behave. Although autism can be diagnosed at any age, it is described as a “developmental disorder” because symptoms generally appear in the first two years of life.

ASHA	American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; or American School Health Association	The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 241,000 members, certificate holders, and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students.
ASQ	Ages and Stages Questionnaire	Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ®) provides reliable, accurate developmental and social-emotional screening for children between birth and age 6. Drawing on parents’ expert knowledge, ASQ has been specifically designed to pinpoint developmental progress and catch delays in young children—paving the way for meaningful next steps in learning, intervention, or monitoring.
AT	Assistive Technology	The term “assistive technology device” means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of a child with a disability. <i>Exception: The term does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such device.</i>
BASC	Behavior Alliance of South Carolina	The Behavior Alliance partners with education agencies to create systems and practices available for all involved in the school journey of any student. These resources are specifically developed to aid in the academic success of students— ensuring they are life and career-ready .
BCBA	Board Certified Behavior Analyst	The Board Certified Behavior Analyst® (BCBA®) certification is a graduate-level certification in behavior analysis. BCBA’s are independent practitioners who can provide behavior-analytic services and supervise the work of RBTs , BCaBA’s , and other professionals who implement behavior-analytic interventions.
BIP	Behavior Intervention Plan	Known as a <i>behavioral intervention plan (BIP)</i> or <i>behavioral support plan (BSP)</i> , this formal written plan is designed to address the function of a student’s interfering behavior by outlining individualized strategies and procedures for both prevention and intervention.
BD	Behavioral Disorder	IDEA defines emotional disturbance as follows: “ ...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: (A) An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors. (B) An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers. (C) Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances. (D) A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression. (E) A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.”

		As defined by IDEA, emotional disturbance includes schizophrenia but does not apply to children who are socially maladjusted, unless it is determined that they have an emotional disturbance.
BHDD	Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities	Effective April 28, 2025, Governor McMaster signed a state law that established the South Carolina Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. This new cabinet agency comprises the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (formerly the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs), the Office of Mental Health (formerly the Department of Mental Health) and the Office of Substance Use Services (formerly the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services). As the state’s behavioral health and developmental disabilities agency, the department provides services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health conditions and substance use disorders through a holistic, streamlined and coordinated approach.
BSP	Behavior Support Plan	BSPs are plans developed to support persons receiving services from BHDD who exhibit inappropriate behaviors. Inappropriate behaviors are actions that get in the way of a person’s daily functioning or create a risk of harm to the individual, other people or their environment. Some inappropriate behaviors would be hitting, spitting, throwing things or running away. A BSP helps individuals understand why their behaviors take place and teaches new, more appropriate behaviors.
CAPTA	Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (1974)	Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act - Establishes a National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect to monitor research, maintain a clearinghouse on child abuse programs, and compile and publish training materials for persons working in the field.
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	CDC is the nation's leading science-based, data-driven, service organization that protects the public's health. CDC works 24/7 to protect America from health, safety and security threats, both foreign and in the U.S.
CEC	Council for Exceptional Children	The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving the success of children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents.
CHIP	Children’s Health Insurance Program	States can design their CHIP program in 1 of 3 ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate CHIP: a program in which a state receives federal funding to provide child health assistance to uninsured, low-income children that meets the requirements of section 2103 of the Social Security Act (the Act).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicaid expansion CHIP: a program in which a state receives federal funding to expand Medicaid eligibility to optional targeted low-income children that meets the requirements of section 2103 of the Act. • Both Separate CHIP and Medicaid expansion: a program in which a state receives federal funding to implement both a Medicaid expansion and a separate CHIP.
CLASS	Classroom Assessment Scoring System	CLASS stands for the Classroom Assessment Scoring System ®, an observation tool that measures what matters most in early learning: the quality of educator–child interactions . But CLASS is more than a tool. It’s a system for continuous quality improvement that helps programs in three ways: Focus on meaningful interactions, Measure those interactions consistently, Improve teaching practices to support every child’s growth.
COS	Child Outcomes Summary	The COS process is a team decision-making process involving discussion about the child's functioning across settings and situations by those who know the child best, such as family members and practitioners. The COS process provides a consistent way for teams to rate a child's functioning relative to age-expected behavior at a specific point in time.
CPS	Child Protective Services	The South Carolina Department of Social Services is committed to the well-being of children and their families. Our mandate, as the state’s child welfare agency, encompasses a wide-range of services, including: child protective services; assistance to help families stay safely together or be reunited; foster care and adoption services; and, support to youth and young adults transitioning from foster care to independence.
CSPD	Comprehensive System of Personnel Development	A CSPD is a framework to improve the quantity, quality, and effectiveness of the early childhood intervention workforce who provide services and interventions to facilitate the development and learning of infants and young children with disabilities and their families.
DAP	Developmentally Appropriate Practice	NAEYC defines “developmentally appropriate practice” as methods that promote each child’s optimal development and learning through a strengths-based, play-based approach to joyful, engaged learning.
DB	Deaf/Blind	Deaf blindness is a rare condition in which an individual has combined hearing and vision loss, thus limiting access to both auditory and visual information.
DD	Developmental Disabilities	A group of conditions due to impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas that begin during a child’s developmental period and may impact day-to-day functioning, usually lasting throughout a person’s lifetime.
DEC	Division for Early Childhood of the	The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) is an international professional organization dedicated to advancing equity and supporting families, young children with or at risk for developmental delays and disabilities, and those who care for and educate them.

	Council for Exceptional Children	
DECE	Division of Early Care and Education, SC Department of Social Services	The Division of Early Care and Education is a division of the South Carolina Department of Social Services that manages all state and federal child care programs, and serves as the single point of contact for federal child care dollars in South Carolina. The mission of the division is to make child care more available and affordable to parents, and to increase the quality of care for all children in the state.
DIP	District Improvement Process	OSES and SC TEAMS will work with each LEA to develop a district improvement process plan, using the District Improvement Process (DIP) Toolkit, that targets the identified areas of need and sets forth required technical assistance and action steps.
DSS	Department of Social Services	A cabinet agency with the State Director appointed by the Governor of South Carolina with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Department has offices in each county and regional offices for Adoptions and Child Support Services. The Department’s mission is to serve South Carolina by promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and vulnerable adults, helping individuals achieve stability and strengthening families. DSS provides protective services for children and vulnerable adults, adoption, and foster care services. The Department establishes standards for and licenses child care providers and residential group homes for children.
EBP	Evidence-Based Practice	Evidence-based practice in the field of early childhood is the process that pulls together the best available research, knowledge from professional experts, and data and input from children and their caregivers, to identify and provide services, evaluated and proven to achieve positive outcomes for children and families.
EC	Early Childhood	Early childhood is a pivotal period of child development that begins before birth through age 8. This is a period of rapid brain and body development. In the first few years of life, more than 1 million new neural connections are formed every second (Center for Developing Child). The experiences and opportunities offered in early childhood lay the foundation for how children grow, learn, build relationships, and prepare for school.
ECAC	Early Childhood Advisory Council	South Carolina’s Early Childhood Advisory Council is a collaborative body representing the state’s early childhood system. Established in law, the ECAC includes the directors of nine state agencies and government entities that provide state- and federally funded services to young children. South Carolina First Steps coordinates the activities of the council.
ECO	Early Childhood Outcomes	These encompass functional skills and behaviors that are meaningful for a child's participation in everyday routines. They cut across developmental domains to represent the integrated nature of how children develop, learn, and thrive. The breadth of these outcomes provides a framework for describing and consistently measuring children's functional skills and behaviors across settings

		and situations. They include positive social-emotional skills, acquisition and use of knowledge and skills and use of appropriate behaviors to meet needs.
ECSE	Early Childhood Special Education	A federal and state mandated program for young children with developmental delays and disabilities. It refers to the range of special education services that apply specifically to children between the ages of 3 and 5, prior to kindergarten. It is important to recognize that early childhood special education is not a place, nor a specific program, but rather specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parent, which addresses the unique needs that result from a child’s disability. Specially designed instruction is instruction that has been adapted in content, methodology or delivery as appropriate to the individual needs of each eligible child. Special education ensures access to the general education curriculum so that each child can meet the educational standards that apply to all children.
ECTA	Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center	The ECTA Center supports state IDEA Part C and Part B, Section 619 programs in developing high-quality, effective, and sustainable state and local systems, to improve access , services , and supports for children with disabilities and their families that result in positive outcomes.
ED	Emotional Disability	A condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree, which adversely affects educational performance: an inability to learn which cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors; an inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers; inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances; a general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression; or a tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.
EHS	Early Head Start	Early Head Start (EHS) programs serve infants and toddlers under the age of 3, and pregnant women. EHS programs provide intensive comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income infants and toddlers and their families, and to pregnant women and their families.
EI	Early Intervention	Early intervention is the term used to describe services and supports available to babies and young children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families.
EIS	Early Intervention Specialist	Individual who delivers Early Intervention services.
EPSDT	Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment, Medicaid	Provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, and specialty services. Early: assessing and identifying problems early; Periodic: checking children’s health at periodic, age-appropriate intervals;

		<p>Screening: providing physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision, and other screening tests to detect potential problems;</p> <p>Diagnostic: performing diagnostic tests to follow up when a risk is identified;</p> <p>Treatment: control, correct, or reduce health problems found.</p>
ERIC	Education Resources Information Center	ERIC is an internet-based digital library of education research and information sponsored by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education, providing access to bibliographic records of journal and non-journal literature from 1966 to the present. ERIC's mission is to provide a comprehensive, easy-to-use, searchable database of education research and information for educators, researchers, and the public.
ESSA	Every Student Succeeds Act (2015)	The federal K-12 education law of the United States. ESSA was signed into law in 2015 and replaced the previous education law called "No Child Left Behind." ESSA extended more flexibility to States in education and laid out expectations of transparency for parents and for communities.
ESY	Extended School Year	Some students with disabilities may need individualized services provided beyond the regular school calendar to enable them to maintain skills and/or make progress on specific goals and objectives that are part of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Those students may benefit from Extended School Year (ESY) services, authorized under the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA) and a component of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).
FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education	The legal concept of "FAPE" is shorthand for "free, appropriate public education." In a nutshell, FAPE is an individualized educational program that is designed to meet the child's unique needs and from which the child receives educational benefit, and prepares them for further education, employment, and independent living.
FAS	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	Fetal alcohol syndrome is a condition in a child that results from alcohol exposure during the mother's pregnancy.
FBA	Functional Behavioral Assessment	If a challenging behavior interferes with the learner's ability to learn, then a functional behavior assessment (FBA) is needed. FBA can be used when the intensity, duration, or type of interfering behavior creates safety concerns or impacts a child's development. An FBA assists the IEP team in understanding the function or purpose of a specific interfering behavior. Data collection is an essential component of FBA.
FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (1974)	The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or FERPA provides certain rights for parents regarding their children's education records. This guide provides general information on a parent's rights under FERPA.

HHS	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services	The mission of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is to enhance the health and well-being of all Americans, by providing for effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services.
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, Public Law 104-191	Most of us feel that our health information is private and should be protected. That is why there is a federal law that sets rules for health care providers and health insurance companies about who can look at and receive our health information. This law, called the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), gives you rights over your health information, including the right to get a copy of your information, make sure it is correct, and know who has seen it.
HS	Head Start	Head Start programs support children's growth from birth to age 5 through services that support early learning and development, health, and family well-being. Head Start staff actively engage parents, recognizing family participation throughout the program as key to strong child outcomes. Head Start services are available at no cost to children ages birth to 5 in eligible families.
ICC	Interagency Coordinating Council	Part C requirement of the IDEA that requires that each state establish a state Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) to support implementation of the Part C Program. Membership of the ICC is specific in statute and regulations.
IDD	Intellectual and Developmental Disability	Differences that are usually present at birth and that uniquely affect the trajectory of the individual's physical, intellectual, and/or emotional development. Many of these conditions affect multiple body parts or systems that could impact adaptive functioning –skills needed to navigate daily life.
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (1975)	A U.S. federal law that makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children, supports early intervention services for infants and toddlers and their families, and awards competitive discretionary grants.
IEP	Individualized Education Program	An individualized education program (IEP) is a written statement designed to meet a student's unique needs and must be in effect: at the beginning of each school year; before special education and related services are provided for a student; and as soon as possible after a parent consent to the IEP.
IFSP	Individualized Family Service Plan	The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is a written plan created to meet the individual needs, concerns, and priorities of individual children, from birth to age 3, and their families. The plan states the family's desired outcomes for their child and themselves and lists the early intervention services and supports that will help meet those outcomes. It also describes when, where, and how the services will be delivered. The IFSP is developed by a team of key members. This team includes

		the family, educators and caregivers, the disability services coordinator, and any specialists who offer supports and services identified in the plan.
IHE	Institution of Higher Education	A college, university, or similar institution, including a technical or business school, offering postsecondary level academic instruction that leads to an associate or higher degree if the school is empowered by the appropriate State education authority under State law to grant an associate or higher degree.
ITCA	IDEA Infants and Toddlers Coordinators Association	A not-for-profit corporation that promotes mutual assistance, cooperation, and exchange of information and ideas in the administration of Part C and provides support to state and territory Part C coordinators.
KRA	Kindergarten Readiness Assessment	The KRA is a developmentally appropriate instrument that measures a child’s school readiness across multiple domains. Understanding a child’s school readiness helps kindergarten teachers best meet the child’s needs, and it helps schools, families, communities and policy makers know how best to support young children as they enter the K-12 environment. The KRA determines each child’s readiness level from an evaluation of four domains: Social Foundations, Language/Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Well-Being. The KRA provides a snapshot of students’ abilities at the beginning of the school year.
LD	Learning Disability	Conditions that affect the ability to learn. They can cause problems with understanding what people are saying, speaking, reading, writing, doing math, and/or paying attention.
LEA	Local Education Agency	A public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a State, or for a combination of school districts or counties as are recognized in a State as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools.
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment	A guiding principle in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). LRE plays a critical role in determining not only where a student will spend their time in school but also how special education services will be provided. Specifically, the LRE requirement within IDEA necessitates that: students with disabilities receive their education alongside their peers without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate; and students should not be removed from the general education classroom unless learning cannot be achieved even with the use of supplementary aids and services.

MCO	Managed Care Organization	A Managed Care Organization (MCO) is a health care company, often called a "health plan." It is a group of doctors, hospitals and other providers who work together to meet member healthcare needs.
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	A memorandum of understanding or MOU is a document created between two or more parties explaining how they will work together to achieve a common goal. While MOU's vary in complexity and use, the purpose is to help organizations work together and understand one another's perspectives.
MTSS	Multi-Tiered System of Supports	A multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) is a proactive and preventative framework that integrates data and instruction to maximize student success from a strengths-based perspective. MTSS offers a framework for educators to engage in data-based decision making related to program improvement, high-quality instruction and intervention, and student engagement to ensure positive outcomes for districts, schools, teachers, and students. The MTSS framework is comprised of four essential components: screening, progress monitoring, multi-level prevention system, and data-based decision making. Depending on state law, MTSS data may also support identification of students with learning or other disabilities.
NAEYC	National Association for the Education of Young Children	NAEYC promotes high-quality early learning for each and every child, birth through age 8, by connecting practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.
NCPMI	National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations	The National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI) is funded by the Office of Special Education Programs to improve state and local capacity to implement, scale-up, and sustain effective practices and policies to promote the social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes of young children with, and at risk for, developmental delays or disabilities.
NEA	National Education Association	NEA has affiliate organizations in every state and in more than 14,000 communities across the United States. We bring the expertise, drive, and dedication of 3 million educators and allies to advancing justice and excellence in public education.
NICU	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit	Newborn babies who need intensive medical care are often put in a special area of the hospital called the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). The NICU has advanced technology and trained healthcare professionals to give special care for the tiniest patients. NICUs may also care for babies who are not as sick but do need specialized nursing care.
NIH	National Institutes of Health	The National Institutes of Health (NIH), a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the nation's medical research agency—making important discoveries that improve health and save lives.

OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education	The mission of the OSEP is to lead the nation's efforts to improve outcomes for children with disabilities, birth through 21, and their families, ensuring access to fair, equitable, and high-quality education and services. OSEP administers the IDEA which authorizes formula grants to states under Part B, grants to lead agencies for the infants, toddlers, and families program under Part C, and discretionary grants under Part D to institutions of higher education and other non-profit organizations to support grants for state personnel development, technical assistance and dissemination, technology, personnel development, and parent-training and information centers.
OSERS	Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education	The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) understands the many challenges still facing individuals with disabilities and their families. Therefore, OSERS is committed to improving results and outcomes for people with disabilities of all ages. OSERS supports programs that serve millions of children, youth and adults with disabilities.
OSES	Office of Special Education Services, SC Department of Education	The SC Office of Special Education Services priorities are to develop and maintain an effective and comprehensive system of general supervision, Provide timely and meaningful technical assistance and support to LEAs, and Develop programs and initiatives to address critical areas of need for the State.
OT	Occupational Therapy	A treatment that helps improve an individual's ability to perform daily tasks. It can help them learn how to move through their environment or use different tools to participate in their activities safely.
PBIS	Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support	Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based, tiered framework for supporting students' behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health.
PDG	Preschool Development Grant	The Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) program is a \$250 million competitive federal grant designed to improve states' early childhood systems by building upon existing federal, state, and local early care and learning investments.
PMC	Pyramid Model Consortium	The Pyramid Model Consortium exists to promote the dissemination, sustainability, scale-up and high-fidelity use of the <i>Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children</i> .
PT	Physical Therapy	A common treatment that can help an individual recover after an injury or surgery or manage symptoms from a health condition that affects how they move. It is a combination of exercises, stretches, and movements that will increase the individual's strength, flexibility, and mobility to help them move safely and more confidently.
PTI	Parent Training and Information Center	The purpose of the Parent Training and Information Centers program (ALN: 84.328) is to ensure that parents of children with disabilities receive high-quality, relevant, and useful training and

		information to help improve outcomes for their children. In South Carolina, our PTI is Family Connection .
PWN	Prior Written Notice	A school must provide prior written notice whenever a school wants to evaluate a child, change a child’s placement or change how it is providing a Free Appropriate Public Education to a child. A school must also provide written notice if a school is refusing to do any of these.
QRIS	Quality Rating and Improvement Scale	<p>ABC Quality is South Carolina’s statewide rating and improvement system (QRIS) for child care and early education. The purpose of this system is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect families to quality early care and education programs with the support of an easy-to-understand rating system. • Offer coaching, professional development, and resources to early care and education providers to improve the early education environment and teaching practices and to support each child’s learning and development. • Enable child care providers to become eligible to receive payments from SC Voucher, so they can serve families that receive child care scholarships. <p>While licensing sets standards for health and safety, ABC Quality is voluntary for child care providers and promotes excellence in meeting the total needs of children.</p>
RTI	Response to Intervention	Students’ skills are monitored to determine whether they show adequate growth (referred to as <i>responsiveness</i>) following the implementation of high-quality instruction. Students who do not respond adequately to research-validated instruction in the general education classroom are provided with increasingly intensive and validated interventions . Students’ progress in skill areas of concern is monitored frequently (e.g., weekly), and the data collected inform subsequent decisions about whether a student is either appropriately responsive or still needing more intensive instruction.
SCCEC	South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children	South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children is a collaborative community of professionals who are the voice and vision of special education in South Carolina. Our mission is to improve the educational outcomes and quality of life of individuals with exceptionalities and their families through the actions of professionals, advocates, and other agencies.
SCDE	South Carolina Department of Education	The mission of the South Carolina Department of Education is to serve students, support teachers, empower parents, and engage in the community so that every student graduates prepared to reach their full potential.

SCEA	South Carolina Education Association	The SCEA is an affiliate of the largest professional association of educators in the country. As the leading advocate for the schools South Carolina students deserve, The SCEA works to promote quality public education and to support public school employees.
SCIC	South Carolina Child Care Inclusion Collaborative	Provides individualized training and technical assistance for child care providers to support children with disabilities/developmental delays in child care programs. Through active collaboration with partnering agencies and organizations, they help child care providers stay connected with resources and opportunities to increase the quality of care and education provided to children and families in South Carolina. The SC Department of Social Services Division of Early Care and Education funds this program, therefore, their services are provided to child care providers at no additional costs.
SCIMHA	South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association	SCIMHA is a collaborative, multidisciplinary membership association for all infant-, early childhood- and family-serving professionals in South Carolina. As a hub for healthy social and emotional development resources, we help babies thrive.
SCPI	South Carolina Partnerships for Inclusion	South Carolina Partnerships for Inclusion (SCPI) is an early childhood technical assistance (TA) center focused on increasing inclusive opportunities related to LRE and program readiness for preschool children with disabilities. SCPI understands that <i>the path to successful adulthood begins with positive early childhood experiences</i> . We reinforce this by partnering with school districts to build local capacity <i>to support all young children and their families to belong and thrive within their communities</i> . We use a professional development model of technical assistance, training, and ongoing support to meet the needs of districts, schools, and educators.
SEA	State Education Agency	The term “State educational agency” means the State board of education or other agency or officer primarily responsible for the State supervision of public elementary schools and secondary schools, or, if there is no such officer or agency, an officer or agency designated by the Governor or by State law.
SEIT	Special Education Itinerant Teacher	A Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) provides specialized individual or group instruction and/or indirect services to preschool students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Services are provided on an itinerant basis, meaning the SEIT travels to the childcare or educational setting where the child attends during the day. SEIT services may be provided alone or in combination with one or more related services.
SLD	Specific Learning Disabilities	A disorder in 1 or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which disorder may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations.
SLP	Speech-Language Pathologist	A professional that helps to treat many types of communication and swallowing problems, including problems with speech sounds, language, literacy, social communication, voice, fluency, cognitive communication, and feeding and swallowing.

SPDG	State Personnel Development Grant	The purpose of the State Personnel Development Grants (SPDG) program is to assist state educational agencies (SEAs) in reforming and improving their systems for personnel preparation and professional development in early intervention, educational, and transition services to improve results for children with disabilities.
SPP	State Performance Plan	States receiving IDEA funds must have a State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) that evaluates their efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of Parts B and C of the IDEA and reports annually on their performance.
SSI	Supplemental Security Income	SSI provides monthly payments to people with disabilities and older adults who have little or no income or resources.
TA	Technical Assistance	The process of providing targeted support to an organization with a development need or problem. It is an effective method for building the capacity of an organization.
TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), formerly known as Family Independence, is South Carolina's welfare program. TANF benefits provide temporary financial assistance to needy families with dependent children.
TASC	Transition Alliance of South Carolina	The Transition Alliance of SC works with state partners and local school districts to improve post-school outcomes for youth with disabilities. Assistance focuses on building capacity at the local level to improve student graduation and dropout rates and effectively use transition evidence-based practices.
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury	A traumatic brain injury (TBI) refers to a brain injury that is caused by an outside force. A forceful bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body can cause it, but not all blows or jolts to the head result in a TBI. An object entering the brain can also cause a TBI. TBIs are sometimes called brain injuries or even head injuries.
TECS	Team for Early Childhood Solutions	TECS provides information and resources that promote congruence of federal law, state policy, evidence-based practices, and service delivery related to early intervention.
UDL	Universal Design for Learning	UDL is a framework to guide the design of learning environments and experiences that are accessible, inclusive, equitable, and challenging for every learner. Ultimately, the goal of UDL is to develop learner agency that is purposeful and reflective, resourceful and authentic, strategic and action oriented. UDL aims to change the design of the environment rather than to situate the problem as a perceived deficit within the learner. When environments are intentionally designed to reduce barriers, every learner can engage in challenging, meaningful learning.

VI	Visual Impairment	People whose vision cannot be corrected by ordinary glasses, contact lenses, medication, or surgery have visual impairments.
WIC	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children	WIC is a nutrition program that provides health education, healthy foods, breastfeeding support, and other services free of charge to South Carolina families who qualify.
ZTT	ZERO TO THREE	ZERO TO THREE has been a dynamic advocate emphasizing the critical importance of the early learning window in child development since 1977. We continue to translate our expertise in the field of early childhood development into pioneering programs that help shape strategies to support infants, toddlers and families.

Adapted from "Acronym List." ECTA Center, <https://ectacenter.org/portal/acronyms.asp>. Accessed 11 Aug. 2025.

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