

School Glossary

Ad hoc - established for a particular purpose without reference to wider or permanent applications, such as ad hoc committee or ad hoc policy.

ADA - Average Daily Attendance - total number of days pupils attend classes in a school district during a reporting period, divided by the number of days school is actually in session during that period. Not to be confused with...

ADA - **The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**, a piece of federal legislation which prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, State and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation.

ADM - Average Daily Membership - total number of pupils enrolled in a school district during a reporting period, divided by the number of days school is actually in session during that period.

Arbitration - method of settling employment disputes, grievances, through recourse to an impartial third party, whose decision may be final (binding) or may be a recommendation (advisory).

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) - Condition that leads to an increasing number of students to be placed on an IEP, and/or disruptive behavior often interferes with all students remaining on-task. Some student's behavior is regulated by medication.

Basic Competencies - Vermont regulation; assures that all students attain stated competencies in reading, writing, mathematics, listening and speaking, and reasoning; monitored through Public School Approval.

Barrier-free - elimination of architectural barriers in educational facilities to allow handicapped persons to enter easily, move about, and use those facilities.

Board Development - workshops, conferences, newsletters, telecommunication and related continuous improvement activities designed to inform, provide up-to-date skills and support for school board members.

Bond - written promise to pay a specified sum of money (face value) at a fixed time in the future (date of maturity) and carrying interest at a fixed rate, usually payable periodically; often used by school districts to raise money for construction.

Certification - process by which the state authorizes a qualified person to teach in public schools; now being referred to as licensing.

Charter Schools - schools that are either privately operated or set up for a specific focus and may be paid for by private and/or public funds.

Child Abuse Registry - a national registry created to track child abuse offenders.

Co-curricular - school sponsored activities or courses for students in addition to required subjects, such as drama.

Collective bargaining - the process used by a group of employees and their employers to make offers and counteroffers for the purpose of reaching a mutually acceptable agreement and a written contract incorporating that agreement.

Common Core Curriculum - curriculum developed by many Vermont citizens but not mandated by the state for use in schools. Many districts develop local curriculum using the state framework and standards created by the Common Core.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) - annual percentage increase in cost of goods and services that is often used as an inflation benchmark when considering increase for employee salaries and benefits.

Corporal punishment - intentional infliction of physical pain upon the body of a pupil as a disciplinary measure; Vermont law prohibits corporal punishment.

Criterion Referenced Test - evaluation instrument used to diagnose the levels of skill achieved on each of several specific tasks applicable to a particular situation in a given classroom or school.

Drug Free Schools and Communities - federal funded program to provide information, support, and technical assistance to schools to help reduce or eliminate the use of drugs and alcohol by students.

Due process - principle of law guaranteeing a meaningful opportunity to protest and be heard prior to government action. In special education, this assures parents and handicapped children a hearing before placement or reassignment in special education. Substantive due process guarantees certain rights and privileges that a government cannot take away from its citizens.

EEOA - The Equal Educational Opportunity Act, or Act 60, passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the governor in June 1997.

Early childhood education - usually refers to the program and curriculum for children in nursery school, kindergarten and grades 1-3.

Education reform - programs or initiatives created by schools and communities intended to provide graduates with the skills necessary to become contributing members of society and highly skilled workers in the 21st century.

English As Second Language (ESL) - program, partially paid for by federal and state funds, that provides instruction for students whose primary language is not English.

Entitlement - mandated by law; for example, special education is an entitlement program.

FAPE – Free and Appropriate Public Education – Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* protects the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance, including federal funds. Section 504 provides that: “No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

Equalized pupils - A Vermont district's weighted long-term average daily membership multiplied by the equalization ratio.

Essential Early Education – A Vermont program that supports the education of handicapped children prior to legal school age for the early acquisition of fundamental skills.

Extracurricular - activities of students, teams, or clubs not considered part of the curriculum.

Factfinding - step usually following unsuccessful mediation in trying to resolve impasse in collective bargaining; fact-finder holds informal hearings with parties in dispute, collects their records and information, and makes written report with advisory recommendations not binding on either party.

Gifted & Talented Education - children identified by professionally qualified observers as having a demonstrated ability or potential for achievement that is outstanding in comparison to their peers.

Grievance - complaint by an employee that a provision of the collective bargaining agreement under which he is working has been violated.

Inclusion - term used to identify delivery of special education services within existing classroom as opposed to students receiving services through a resource room, pull-out model.

Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) - teacher professional development plan created for and reviewed by each school's Local Standards Board. Plan must address specific school and community criteria before each teacher is relicensed every 7 years.

IDEA - (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) – main federal special education legislation.

IEP (Individual Education Plan) - component of Public Law 94-142 that requires a written plan of instruction for each child receiving special services, giving a statement of the child's present levels of educational performance, annual goals, short term objectives, specific services needed by the child, dates when these services will begin and be in effect, and related information. The program is undertaken by a team, including parent involvement.

In-service education - general term used to describe the efforts to promote the professional growth and development of employees while on the job.

Job description - written statement of the various operations, duties, and other essential factors concerned in a job; usually based on a job analysis including employee requirements and training in order to qualify for the job.

Mainstreaming - moving handicapped children from their segregated status in special education classes and integrating them with non-handicapped children in regular classrooms.

Mediation - first step in trying to resolve impasse in collective bargaining; a mediator is a neutral third-person who communicates with employee and employer to attempt to reach an amicable settlement. A mediator is not empowered to impose a settlement.

Multi-year Plan - an individual plan for students with limiting handicaps that leads to completion of Basic competencies and/or graduation.

Multiple Intelligences - premise many schools are using to develop curriculum, behavior management systems and teacher methodology that is based on research that student learn in a variety of ways.

NSBA (National School Boards Association) - VSBA is an affiliate of the NSBA and receives through membership services a great deal of information, support, technical assistance and congressional advocacy.

Policy - statement adopted by a school board or an administrative agency outlining principles to be followed with respect to specific matters; usually requires rules or regulations to be formulated for its implementation, and is broad enough to provide for administrative decisions regarding the manner in which it shall be implemented, although its implementation in some manner is mandatory.

Portfolio Assessment - assessment system that chronicles student's best pieces of writing and math to demonstrate learning and competence. Expanding to encompass art and career portfolios.

Pre-school - theory and method for guiding very young children in a group; generally refers to education demonstrated in nursery schools; emphasis is placed on developing capacities of the individual.

94-142 (Public Law 94-142) - a federal law adopted in 1975, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act; affirms the right of all individuals with handicaps to be provided a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

Public School Approval - a Vermont mandate adopted in 1984; its purpose is "to assure acceptable educational opportunities for all Vermont students regardless of where they live, and to set in motion a mechanism for school improvement statewide".

Residential placement - a placement that allows for the provision of needed educational services as well as living arrangements; in special education, a residential placement is considered one of the more restrictive placements but in some cases, a necessity.

S.A.T. - Scholastic Aptitude Test - an instrument used to measure ability, administered by the College Entrance Examination Board to students in grades 11 or 12; used as a criterion for college and university admission; sometimes called college boards.

School-To-Work (STW) - federally funded and promoted K-14 program designed to create business and education partnerships intended to prepare students with the academic rigor and workforce skills necessary to successfully get and keep jobs.

Special education - the provisions of facilities, instruction, supervision and other educational services, to ensure a free appropriate public education for children with handicaps.

Standardized test - evaluation instrument given under similar, controlled circumstances to many individuals.

State education fund - The pool of tax funds that enables equalizing of school revenues. If a town from its property resources can raise more per pupil than the equalized yield amount, it pays into the fund. If a town raises less, it draws from the fund.

State Placed Students - students that are in state custody and who are enrolled by the human services agency in local schools. A complex state funding mechanism is currently in existence to pay local school expenses.

Strategic planning - process based on the dynamic theory that plans for the future must be developing considering all conditions and factors that may impact on the school district; uses the school's mission, long-range goals, and strategies governing human and material resources needed to achieve the mission.

Supervisory Union - in Vermont, the combination of several school districts into an administrative unit; the public schools in each school district are under the general supervision of a superintendent of schools selected by members of the school boards in each district; a town or city employing forty or more teachers shall be allowed to remain a district.

Title I - federally supported program to improve instruction for disadvantaged students, usually in reading, language and math.

Title II - federally supported block grant program to supplement local school programs in such areas as library resources, special equipment, in-service, etc.

Title VI - federally supported block grant program created to supplement local school programs with curriculum, planning and innovative learning opportunities.

Union School - two or more schools which agree to establish and operate a joint school; a union school district has "all the rights and responsibilities which a town district has in providing education for its youth".

Warning (or Warrant)- advance notification, as prescribed by law, for Town or School District Meetings.

Worker's compensation - payments made to an employee by his employer for an injury, not necessarily an injury arising out of the duties related to the employment, but occurring during working hours.