

Neurodivergent Terminology

A list of common terms used when discussing those who learn differently:

1. **ADHD (Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder):** A neurodevelopmental condition characterized by inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity that affects daily functioning and development.
2. **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD):** A developmental disorder that affects communication, social interaction, and behavior, with symptoms that vary widely in severity.
3. **Dyscalculia:** A learning disability that affects mathematical abilities, making it hard to understand numbers and perform math calculations.
4. **Dysgraphia:** A learning disability that affects writing abilities, including spelling, handwriting, and organizing ideas on paper.
5. **Dyslexia:** A learning disability that affects reading and language processing, making it difficult for individuals to read fluently and accurately.
6. **Executive Functioning:** Cognitive processes that help people manage their thoughts, actions, and emotions to accomplish tasks. Challenges with executive functioning are common in neurodivergent individuals.
7. **Hyperfocus:** A state of intense concentration common in individuals with ADHD, where they can focus deeply on one task to the exclusion of everything else.
8. **Neurodivergent:** Refers to individuals whose brain functions differently from what is considered typical, encompassing conditions like ADHD, autism, dyslexia, and more.
9. **Neurodiversity:** A concept that suggests neurological differences like ADHD, autism, dyslexia, and others are normal variations of the human brain and should be recognized and respected.
10. **Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD):** A condition when the brain has trouble receiving and responding to information from the senses, leading to hypersensitivity or hyposensitivity to sensory stimuli.

IEP Terminology

Common terms to understand the Individualized Education Program conversations:

1. **Accommodations:** Changes in how students learn the material (e.g., extended time on tests, preferential seating) to ensure they can access education without changing the actual content or expectations.
2. **Annual Goals:** Specific, measurable objectives outlined in a student's IEP that reflect what the student is expected to achieve in one year.
3. **FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education):** A legal right for students with disabilities, ensuring they receive an education tailored to their needs at no cost to their families.
4. **IEP (Individualized Education Program):** A legal document developed for public school children with disabilities that outlines specific learning goals, accommodations, and services tailored to their individual needs.
5. **Least Restrictive Environment (LRE):** A legal requirement in which students with disabilities are

educated alongside their non-disabled peers to the greatest extent possible.

6. **Modifications:** Changes in what a student is taught or expected to learn, typically altering the

curriculum to better fit a student's needs.

7. **Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP):** A section in the IEP that describes the student's current academic and functional abilities, forming the foundation for IEP goals.

8. **Progress Monitoring:** A way to track the student's progress toward IEP goals, ensuring that they are making adequate progress.

9. **Related Services:** Support services required for a child with a disability to benefit from special education, such as speech therapy, counseling, or transportation.

10. **Special Education Services:** Instruction and services specifically designed to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities. These can include speech therapy, occupational therapy, and specialized academic instruction.

504 Terminology

Here is an alphabetized list to help understand the 504 purposes

1. **504 Plan:** A formal plan that outlines accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have equal access to education, without modifying the curriculum.

2. **Assistive Technology:** Devices or software that helps students with disabilities access the curriculum and complete tasks, such as speech-to-text software or audiobooks.

3. **Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP):** A plan that outlines strategies and interventions to address behaviors that interfere with a student's learning or the learning of others.

4. **Child Find:** A legal obligation for schools to identify, locate, and evaluate children with disabilities who may need special education services or accommodations.

5. **Extended Time:** A common accommodation that allows students more time to complete tasks or assessments to accommodate processing speed or attention challenges.

6. **Functional Impairment:** A limitation that impacts a student's ability to perform daily activities or tasks required in the school environment.

7. **Manifestation Determination:** A process used to determine if a student's misbehavior is directly related to their disability and if it should result in disciplinary action.

8. **Reasonable Accommodations:** Adjustments made in a student's learning environment to provide equal access to education without altering the curriculum's expectations.

9. **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act:** A federal law that prohibits discrimination based on disability, requiring schools to provide accommodations to ensure equal access to education for students with disabilities.

10. **Transition Services:** Services that help students with disabilities transition from school to adult life, focusing on post-secondary education, employment, and independent living.

Other School Terminology

Here is an alphabetized list of common public school special education terms:

1. **Accommodations:** Changes in how a student learns the material, such as extended time on tests or preferential seating, to ensure they can access education without altering the content.

2. **Annual Goals:** Specific, measurable objectives outlined in an IEP that a student is expected to achieve within a year.

3. **Assistive Technology:** Devices or software used to help students with disabilities access the curriculum and complete tasks, such as text-to-speech software or audiobooks.
4. **Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP):** A plan that includes strategies to address behaviors that interfere with a student's learning or the learning of others.
5. **Child Find:** A legal requirement for schools to identify, locate, and evaluate children with disabilities who may need special education services.
6. **Extended Time:** An accommodation that allows students more time to complete tests, assignments, or tasks to account for challenges like processing speed.
7. **FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education):** A legal right for students with disabilities to receive an education that is tailored to their individual needs, provided at no cost to their families.
8. **Functional Impairment:** A limitation that impacts a student's ability to perform daily tasks or activities in the school environment.
9. **IEP (Individualized Education Program):** A legal document developed for public school children with disabilities that outlines their unique educational goals, accommodations, services, and supports.
10. **Least Restrictive Environment (LRE):** A principle stating that students with disabilities should be educated with their non-disabled peers to the greatest extent appropriate.
11. **Manifestation Determination:** A process used to determine if a student's behavior results from their disability, particularly in cases of disciplinary action.
12. **Modifications:** Changes to what a student is taught or expected to learn, typically adjusting the curriculum to fit the student's needs better.
13. **Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP):** A section in the IEP that details the student's current academic abilities and how they perform in functional areas, forming the basis for setting IEP goals.
14. **Progress Monitoring:** The process of tracking and assessing a student's progress toward their IEP goals over time.
15. **Reasonable Accommodations:** Adjustments made in the learning environment to ensure students with disabilities have equal access to education, without modifying the curriculum.
16. **Related Services:** Additional services that help students with disabilities benefit from special education, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, and transportation.
17. **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act:** A federal law ensuring students with disabilities have access to accommodations and services necessary for an equal educational experience.
18. **Special Education Services:** Tailored instruction and services provided to students with disabilities to meet their unique educational needs, including academic and related services.
19. **Transition Services:** A set of services designed to help students with disabilities transition from school to post-school activities, such as higher education or employment.