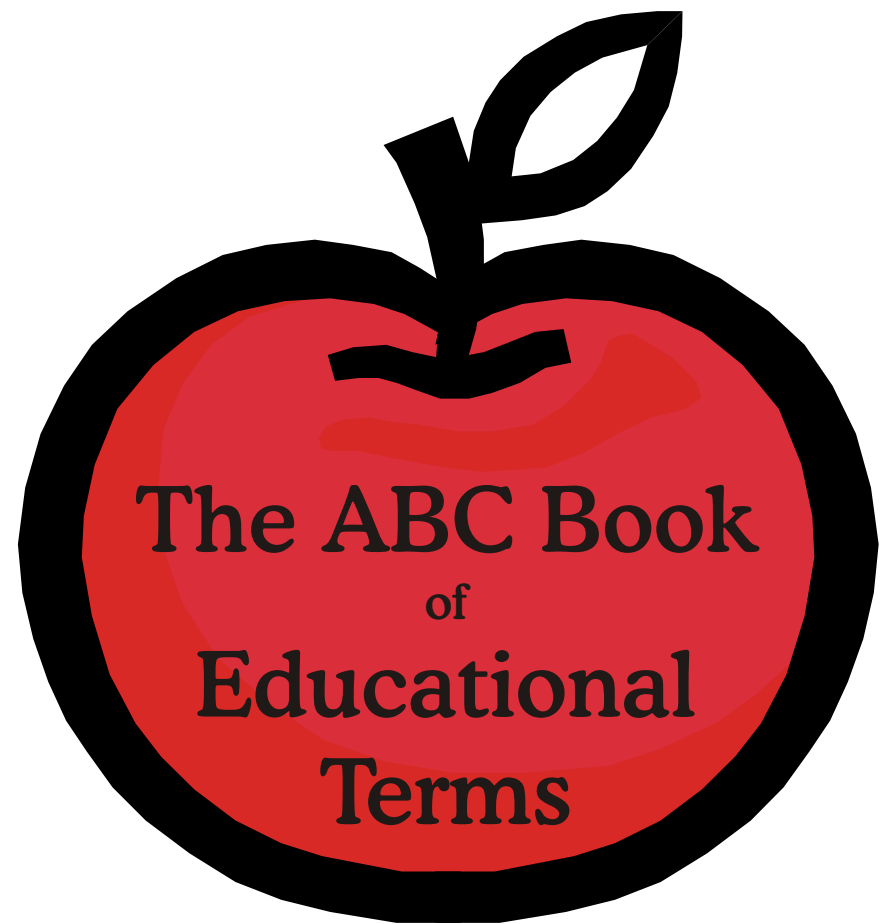


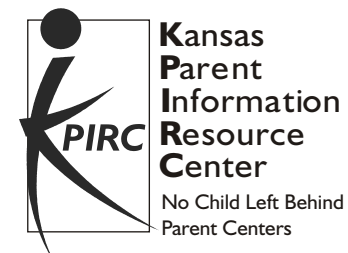
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This booklet was adapted from
“The ABC Book of Educational Terms:
A Plain Language Guide For Parents” from the
Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center (CPIRC)
and RMC Research Corporation and
The Hartcourt School Publishers Multimedia Math Glossary.



A Plain Language Guide For Parents



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Introduction

Section 1118--Parent Involvement-- (e)(1) of Title I in No Child Left Behind says that schools shall provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or local education agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the States' academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, and State and local academic assessments. This plain language guide is intended to help parents become familiar with frequently used educational terms. Effective communication is essential for building family and school partnerships and communication is enhanced when families and educators are able to work together to help children.

Research cited by the US Department of Education (1997) indicated that 77 percent of parents wanted to learn how to be more involved in their children's learning and 72 percent wanted to be more involved in their children's schools. However, one of the barriers to family involvement is the use of education jargon. If parents are to be full participants in their child's educational process, they need to feel comfortable talking with school staff.

The purpose of this guide is to provide Kansas families with a resource of commonly used educational terms. Many of the terms selected for this plain language guide appear in current state and federal legislation that is of particular interest to parents.

Resources

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Tips

For Improving Communication In Parent-Teacher Conferences

Start early in the year to develop an informal relationship with your child's teacher and principal. In this case, short notes or phone calls may be beneficial.

Contact the teacher if your child is having difficulty understanding or completing homework.

Make an appointment in advance to see the teacher or principal.

Plan for the conference by writing down any questions or concerns that you may have.

Bring a pad to write down notes from the conference.

Approach the conference with a cooperative spirit and try to maintain a positive attitude.

If the teacher uses a term that is unfamiliar to you, ask for an explanation.

Ask to see samples of your child's work. Find out what your child needs to do to improve.

Ask the teacher for suggestions of ways that you can help your child improve his/her learning.

Be sure to follow up with anything that you have agreed to do as a result of the conference.

Aa

Ability Grouping

A classroom practice in which students with similar academic skills area placed together for instruction.

Accountability System

Each state sets academic standards for what every child should know and learn. Academic achievement is measured for every child. The results of these annual tests are reported to the public.

Achievement Gap

The difference between how low income and minority children perform on tests as compared with their peers.

Achievement Tests

Tests which measure how much a student has learned in certain areas. Kansas Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) standardized tests (and the exams that schools use in Kansas use for accountability purposes) are achievement tests.

Active Learning

Learning that involves the student by providing opportunities to move around and do things rather than sitting at their desks, filling out worksheets, or listening to the teacher.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

An individual school's yearly progress toward achieving state academic standards.

Aggregated Test Scores

A report combined test scores of students in a particular classroom, grade level, school district, or state.

Alignment

The practice of matching state content standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessment so that teachers teach to the standards and students are tested on what they are taught.

Aa

Measurements

Alphabetic Principle

The understanding that written letters systematically represent sounds. For example, the word **big** has three letters and three sounds.

Alternative Assessments

Ways, other than standardized tests, such as oral reports or discussions, projects, performances, portfolios, and experiments to get information about what students know and where they may need help.

Assessment

Another word for "test." Under No Child Left Behind, test are aligned with academic standards. Assessments are used by the teacher, specialist, counselor, or school to determine the level of learning a student has achieved. There are various forms of assessment instruments, including tests, portfolios, and performance. Beginning in the 2002-2003 school year, all schools must give test in each of three grade spans: grades 3-5, grades 6-9, and grades 10-12. Beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, tests must be given every year in grades 3-8 in math and reading. Beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, science achievement must also be tested.

At-Risk

A label given to students who have a high risk of failing or dropping out of school. Students who have a high poverty background are often considered at-risk.

Attention-Deficit Disorder (ADD)

A clinically diagnosed disorder that makes it difficult for students to concentrate and to control impulsive behaviors.

1 foot 12 inches

1 yard 3 feet or 36 inches

1 mile 5280 feet

1 gallon 4 quarts or 128 fluid ounces

½ gallon 2 quarts or 64 fluid ounces

1 quart 2 pints or 32 fluid ounces

1 pint 2 cups or 16 fluid ounces

1 cup 8 fluid ounces

1 pound 16 ounces

1 ton 2000 pounds

1 inch 2.5 centimeters

1 kilometer .6 miles or one -thousandth of a meter

1 mile 1.6 kilometers

1 meter 39 inches

1 liter 1.1 quart

1 ounce 28 grams

1 kilogram 2.2 pounds

1 centimeter one-tenth of a meter

1 millimeter one-hundredth of a meter

1 meter slightly larger than 39 inches

Variable A letter or symbol that stands for one or more numbers.

Venn Diagram A diagram that shows relationships among sets of things.

Vertex In a solid figure, a corner where three or more edges meet.

X-Axis The horizontal line on a coordinate grid.

X-Coordinate The first number in an ordered pair. It tells the distance to move horizontally.

Y-Axis The vertical line on a coordinate grid.

Y-Coordinate The second pair in an ordered pair. It tells the distance to move up or down.

Time



1 minute 60 seconds

1 hour 60 minutes

1 day 24 hours

1 week 7 days

1 year 365 days or 52 weeks or 12 months

1 decade 10 years

1 century 100 years

1 millennium 1000 years

Aa

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

A neurobiological disorder, typically with ADHD have developmentally appropriate behavior, including poor attention skills, impulsivity, and hyperactivity. These characteristics arise early in childhood, typically before age seven, are chronic, and last at least six months. Children with ADHD may also experience difficulty in the areas of social skills and self-esteem.

Autism (AU)

A developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and non-verbal communication and social interaction.

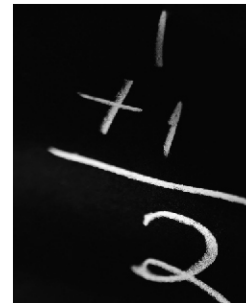
Bb

Basal Readers

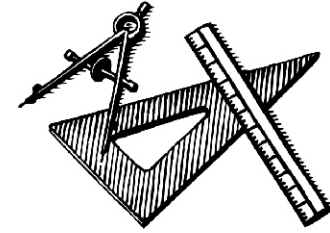
Elementary books that have simple stories and practice exercises to teach reading.

Basic Skills

The basic building blocks of school curriculum that usually refer to reading, writing, and mathematics. Within these subjects, basic skills usually refer to the ability to read aloud and to understand what was read, and the ability to add, subtract, multiply, divide, and to solve mathematical problems.



Bb



Benchmark	A detailed description of a specific level of student achievement expected of students at particular ages, grades or developmental levels. Benchmarks are often represented by samples of students work. A set of benchmarks can be used as checkpoint to monitor progress in meeting performance goals within and across grade levels.
Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)	A plan that is put in place to teach a child proper behavior and social skills. It should be positive in nature, not punitive.
Bilingual Education	An in-school program for students whose first language is not English or who have limited English skills. Bilingual education provides English language development plus subject area instruction in the student's native language. The goal is for the child to gain knowledge and be literate in two languages.
Brain-based Learning	The learning theory is based on information on how the brain works. Brain-based learning immerses learners in complex interactive experiences that are real and personally meaningful.

Quadrilateral	A polygon with four sides.
Radius	The distance halfway across; or a line segment that connects the center of the circle to the point.
Range	The difference between the largest and smallest numbers.
Ratio	The relationship between two numbers expressed as a fraction, decimal or percent.
Reciprocal	One of two numbers whose product is 1; two numbers are reciprocals of each other if their product equals 1.
Remainder	The amount left over when a number cannot be divided equally.
Rhombus	A parallelogram with four congruent sides.
Scalene Triangle	A triangle with no congruent sides.
Square Root	One of two equal factors of a number.
Tangram	A puzzle consisting of seven polygon-shaped pieces that can be rearranged to make various figures or shapes.
Unit Rate	A rate that has 1 unit as its second term.



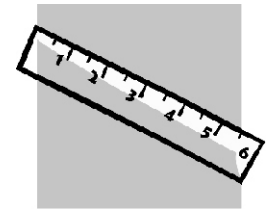
Nominal Number	A number that names things.
Nonagon	A polygon with nine sides and nine angles.
Numerator	The number above the bar in a fraction that tells how many equal parts of the whole are being considered.
Octagon	A polygon with eight sides.
Odd Number	A whole number that has 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9 in the ones place.
Order of Operations	When working with a problem, you must do the exponents first then do everything in parentheses next and then multiply and or divide and lastly add and or subtract.
Ordinal Number	A number that tells order or position.
Parallelogram	A quadrilateral whose opposite sides are parallel and congruent.
Pentagon	A polygon with five sides.
Perimeter	The distance around a shape.
Pi (π)	The ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter.
Pictograph	A graph that uses pictures to show and compare information.
Polygon	A closed plane figure formed by three or more line segments.
Prime Number	A whole number greater than 1 that has exactly two factors, one and itself.
Proportion	An equality of 2 ratios.

Character Education	Schoolwide and classroom strategies to help children develop positive character traits such as respect, responsibility, caring, honesty, and citizenship.
Charter Schools	Independent public schools designed and operated by educators, parents and community leaders.
Child Find (CF)	A required federal program that requires States to actively locate children, birth to age 21, with developmental disabilities or who are at risk for developmental disabilities. It particularly focuses on children not enrolled in school programs.
Classroom Management	Procedures teachers use to create a productive learning environment. Students learn how to take turns, form groups, ask questions, and turn in completed work.
Classroom Organization	Structure of the classroom including the placement of desks, bookshelves, reading corner, and science displays.
Cognitive Development	Children's developing knowledge and skills that help them to think about and understand the world around them.
Compact	An agreement between parents and school staff members that spells out what each will do to help students succeed.
Comprehension	The ability to understand and gain meaning from reading.
Content Standards	The information, ideas, and facts students are supposed to learn in a particular grade.



Cooperative Learning	A teaching method that puts students with different ability levels together to work on an assignment. Each student has a role. They work together to learn information, accomplish a task, and practice group skills.
Core Academic Subjects	English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, art, history, and geography.
Corrective Action	A plan a school is placed on by the state when it has not made adequate yearly progress toward meeting standards.
Credential	A license that certifies a professional has taken the necessary basic course work or training courses.
Criterion Referenced Test	A standardized test to measure students' performance related to academic objectives.
Critical Thinking	The use of analysis and evaluation to think deeply about a concept.
Curriculum	The approved subject matter that teachers teach at each grade level.

Integers	The set of whole numbers and their opposites.
Interval	The distance between two numbers on the scale of a graph.
Inverse Operations	Operations that undo each other. Addition and subtraction are inverse, or opposite operations, and so are multiplication and division.
Lateral Faces	The faces in a prism or pyramid that are not bases.
Less Than (<)	A symbol used to compare two numbers, with the lesser number given first.
Mean	The number found by dividing the sum of a set of numbers by the number of addends.
Measurement	Determining the length, area, volume, time, and other quantities and using the appropriate tools to do so.
Median	The middle number or the average of the two middle numbers in an ordered set of data.
Metric System	A measurement system that measures length in millimeters, centimeters, meters, and kilometers; capacity in liters and milliliters; mass in grams and kilograms; and temperature in degrees Celsius.
Mixed Number	A number represented by a whole number and a fraction.



Dd

Equilateral Triangle	A triangle with three congruent sides.
Estimate	An answer that is close to an exact answer.
Even Number	A whole number that has 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 in the ones place.
Exponents	A symbol written above and to the right of a mathematical expression to signify how many times it is to be used as a factor.
Factor	A number that is multiplied by another number to find a product.
Factor Tree	A diagram that shows the prime factors of a number.
Fraction	A ratio of the form a/b where a and b are whole numbers and b does not equal zero.
Function	A relationship between two quantities in which one quantity depends on the other.
Geometry	A branch of mathematics that deals with measurement, properties and relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces and solids.
Greater Than (>)	A symbol used to compare two numbers, with the greater number given first.
Greatest Common Factor (GCF)	The greatest factor that two or more numbers have in common.
Heptagon	A polygon with seven sides and seven angles.
Hexagon	A polygon with six sides and six angles.
Hypotenuse	In a right triangle, the side opposite the right angle; the longest side in a right triangle.



Decoding Translation of the letters in written words into sounds and combining the sounds into meaningful words.

Developmentally Appropriate Practices Curriculum and instruction that matches the physical and mental development of the student.

Differentiated Instruction Teaching that attempts to take into consideration various learning styles and achievement levels of individual students, rather than rely on a one-size-fits-all approach.

Disability A substantially limiting physical or mental impairment that affects basic life activities such as hearing, seeing, speaking, walking, caring for oneself, learning, or working.

Disaggregated Data To separate a whole into its parts. In education, this term means that test results are sorted by groups of students who are economically disadvantaged, who have disabilities, who have limited English fluency, or racial and ethnic minority groups. This practice allows parents and teachers to see more than just the average score for their child's school. Instead, parents and teachers can see how each student group is performing.

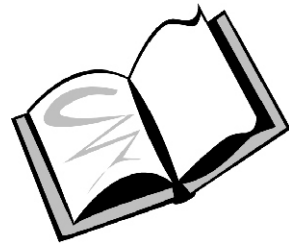
Distance Learning A television image of a teacher broadcast to students in another location. Rural districts often use distance learning to provide advanced and other courses.

Distinguished Schools Awards given to schools that make major gains in student achievement.

Dd

Dyslexia A reading problem that causes children to transpose letters.

Ee



Early Reading First A nationwide effort to provide money to support early language, literacy, and pre-reading development of preschool-age children, particularly those from low income families.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) The principal federal law affecting K-12 education. The No Child Left Behind Act is the most recent reauthorization of ESEA.

Emergent Literacy The idea that learning to read and write begins at birth and is developed through participation with adults in meaningful literacy-related activities.

English Language Learners (ELL) Students whose native language is other than English.

Experimental Education An education approach that stresses hands-on experience.

Explicit Instruction Teaching children in a systematic and step-by-step way.

Cardinal Number A number that tells how many items are in a group.

Chord A line segment with its endpoints on a circle.

Circumference The distance around a circle.

Congruent Having the same size and shape.

Coordinate plane A plane formed by a horizontal line (x-axis) that intersects a vertical line (y-axis).

Cubic Unit A unit of volume with dimensions of one unit times one unit times one unit.

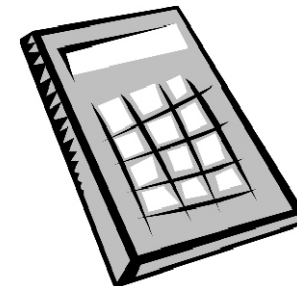
Decimal System A numeration system based on grouping by tens.

Denominator The number below the bar in a fraction that tells how many equal parts are in the whole.

Diameter The distance across one end to another; or a chord of a circle that passes through the center of a circle.

Dimension A measure in one direction; the length, width, or height of a figure.

Divisible A number is divisible by another number if the quotient is a whole number and the remainder.



Math Glossary

Ff

Absolute Value	The distance of a number from zero on a number line. (-4 or +4)
Addend	A number that is added to another in an addition problem.
Acute Angle	An angle that has a measure greater than 0 degrees and less than 90 degrees.
Algebra	A form of advanced arithmetic in which letters of the alphabet represent unknown numbers.
Algebraic Expression	An expression that includes at least one variable.
Arithmetic	A branch of mathematics taught to children in elementary school. It deals with numbers and how to use them in the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
Array	An arrangement that shows objects in rows and columns.
Associative Property	The property that states that the way addends are grouped or factors are grouped does not change the sum or product.
Average	A number that best represents a list of numbers-most commonly referred to as the mean.
Bar Graph	A graph that uses horizontal or vertical bars to display countable data.

Family Literacy

School programs that help parents improve their own literacy skills through GED classes. Other family literacy activities include tips for helping children with reading and writing at home.

Flexible Grouping

Teachers place students in small groups to teach or re-teach specific skills. The groups change often as students master the skills.

Flexible Scheduling

A different approach to traditional scheduling that includes increasing the time allotted for basic instruction.

Fluency

The ability to read text accurately and quickly.

Formal Assessment

Refers to standardized tests that measure student progress.

Gg

Gender Bias

Different treatment of girls and boys based on their sex, in a textbook or by a teacher or employer.

General Educational Development (GED) Exam

An exam given to adults that certifies that the individual taking the exam has the skills equivalent to those of a high school graduate. The GED exam includes writing, social studies, science, math, literature, and the arts.

Gg

General Education Standards, Benchmarks, and Indicators

The hierarchy of curriculum content:

Standards are big, general concepts to be learned - are identical from grade to grade.

Benchmarks are smaller concepts, several of which are imbedded in each standard-tend to only be similar from grade to grade.

Indicators are the individual concepts taught at each grade level and may range from one to ten or more benchmark-may be only slightly similar from grade to grade.

Gifted and Talented Education

Programs for students who are identified as having high potential. The classes offer enrichment activities.

Grapheme

The smallest part of written language that represents a sound in the spelling of a word. A grapheme may be just one letter, such as b, d, f, p, s; or several letters, such as ch, sh, th, -ck, ea, -igh.

Graphic Organizers

Visual representations of ideas that help students organize new information.

Guided Reading

Reading in which a teacher guides and assists students as they read aloud in small groups.

Ww

Whole Language

A teaching strategy that emphasizes reading for overall meaning and content (the "wholeness" of words and text), forgiving specific mistakes in misreading or mispronouncing words or phrases.

Word Recognition

Ability to identify printed words in order to figure out the meaning.

Word Wall

A systematically organized collection of words displayed in large letters on a wall in a classroom of students to promote vocabulary development, writing skills, and group learning.

Writing Center

An activity center in the classroom supplied with paper, pens, crayons, pencils, books, and other writing supplies for students to create original stories.

Xx

Yy

Zz

Tt

Transferability

Allows schools to transfer money from one federal program to another to more effectively meet the educational needs of the families they serve.

Transfer Options

Students' ability to go to another school in the district if the school the child is currently attending is "failing."

Uu

Unsafe School Choice Options

An opportunity for students who attend a dangerous public school to transfer to a safer public school.

Vv

Violent Acts

For the purposes of determining school safety indicators, violent acts are defined as malicious acts against students or staff that result in the student receiving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion.

Vocabulary

The words students must know to read and understand ideas.

Volunteering

Time given by parents and community members to help schools and classrooms.



Hh

Heterogenous Grouping

A grouping practice that places students of different ability levels together for classroom instruction. Usually, high ability students are grouped with moderate and low ability students for specific assignments.

Higher Order Thinking

Complex reasoning tasks that are beyond rote memory facts. Students learn to analyze, compare, contrast, investigate, infer, generalize, and evaluate.

Highly Qualified Teacher

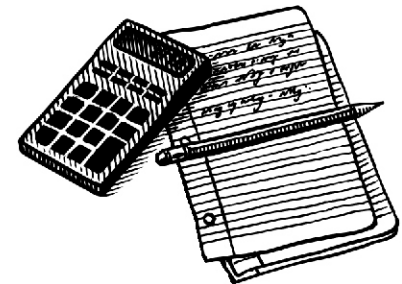
One who has obtained full state teacher certification or has passed that state teacher examination and holds license to teach in the state; holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree; and has demonstrated subject area competence in each of the academic subjects in which the teacher teaches.

Home Schooling

The practice of parents teaching their children at home rather than sending them to public or private schools.

Homogenous Grouping

A grouping practice that places students of like ability levels together. Students who need instruction in the same skills are often placed in flexible groups that change often (e.g., guided reading groups).



Ii

Inclusion

The practice of educating children with disabilities with their peers in regular classroom in their neighborhood school. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires that disabled children be educated in the "least restrictive environment" possible.

Individual Education Plan (IEP)

An intervention strategy used mostly, but not exclusively, for special needs children. It represents a guideline of strategies and goals to be followed for the school year and is put together by a committee that includes teachers, resource counselors, and the child's parent or guardian. The IEP represents the school's best assessment concerning the nature of the child's difficulties and what approaches hold the most promise. It is a written legal contract that says what services the school will provide.

Intelligence Quotient (IQ)

A measurement of mental ability. Many critics claim that it measures experience and the ability to do well in school rather than innate ability.

Invented Spelling

Phonemic-based spelling where children create their own way of writing words based on the sounds they hear. Invented spelling helps teachers diagnose students progress in phonemic awareness. It also helps young children express themselves in writing before they learn to form all of the letters or to spell them correctly.

Ss

Supplemental Services

Outside tutoring or academic assistance to students from low-income families who are attending schools that have been identified as failing for two years or not making adequate yearly progress. Parents can choose the appropriate services for their child from a list of approved providers. The school district will purchase these services.

Tt

Targeted Assistance Program

Programs that operate schools who are not eligible for, or those choosing not to run, a Schoolwide Title I program. Using Title I money, they provide services only to eligible children identified as having the greatest educational need. School staff determine which services and activities will be provided to which student, generally through testing to determine where the child's skills and strengths lie as well as deficiencies. Non-Title I students are not eligible to receive Title I services in a targeted assistance program school.

Team Teaching

A technique whereby two or more teachers work jointly with a group of students.

Title I

A federal program that provides additional educational services for low income students and families.

Ss



Special Education

Specialized instruction tailor-made to fit the unique learning strengths and needs of students with disabilities. A major goal of special education is to teach the skills and knowledge the child needs to be as independent as possible. Special education programs focus on academics and also include therapy and other related services to help the child overcome difficulties in all areas of development. These services may be provided in a variety of educational settings but are required by IDEA to be delivered in the least restrictive environment.

Standards

Subject-matter benchmarks to measure students' academic achievement.

State Education Agency (SEA)

Agency responsible for the state supervision of public elementary and secondary schools.

Student Improvement Team (SIT)

A site based group of teachers to whom any teacher in the building can discuss learning questions about an individual student and with the help of the team, strategize possible interventions to assist the student to increase his/her learning.

Student Support Services

Staff members that provide additional services to support students, such as a school nurse, psychologist, or counselor.

Student with an Exceptionality

Any student that receives special education services in Kansas, including gifted students. (Ages 3-21)

Ii

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The federal law that provides legal authority for early intervention and special educational services for children birth to age 21. Part B outlines services for children to age 3 to 21. Part C outlines services for children birth to age 3.

Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)

The written document that defines the early intervention services provided to the child and family. The program is designed to meet the needs of the child and the family, based on family-identified priorities.

Jj

Journals

Personal writing books in which young learners scribble, draw, and use their own spellings to write about their experiences. Older students often use journals as learning logs to document and process information and ideas.



Kk

Kansas Assessment Performance Levels

Exemplary: Students who perform at the exemplary level on the Kansas State Assessments consistently demonstrate high performance. These students have well-developed ability to apply knowledge and skills in most situations. Their work is superior.

Exceeds Standard: Students who perform at the advanced level on the Kansas State Assessments demonstrate high performance. These students effectively demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge and skills in most situations. They have a command of difficult, rigorous, and challenging material.

Meets Standard: Students who perform at the proficient level on the Kansas State Assessments demonstrate a mastery of core skills. These students exhibit competence in applying knowledge and skills in most problem situations. They show evidence of solid performance.

Approaches Standard: Students who perform at the basic level on the Kansas State Assessments show partial mastery of fundamental skills. These students have a basic knowledge of content, but struggle in applying knowledge and skills in problem situations.

Academic Warning: Students who perform at the unsatisfactory level on the Kansas State Assessment demonstrate a lack of core knowledge, skills and concepts. Their command of the content is very limited and their ability to apply knowledge or demonstrate understanding is minimal.

Ss

Scaffolded Instruction

Instruction that builds on what students already know and can do, then provides support so that they can learn to do the next harder task.

School Reform

Term that describes efforts to improve schools. Reform efforts focus on all aspects of schooling, from how schools are governed to what curriculum is taught in the classroom.

Schoolwide Programs

Programs that use Title I money to support comprehensive school improvement efforts and help all students, particularly low-achieving and at-risk students, meet state standards at particular schools. To qualify as a Title I schoolwide program, at least 40% of the school's students must be considered low income (in Kansas 30%). Schoolwide programs can provide Title I services and support to all of the children in the school, regardless of income level. Schoolwide programs have more flexibility than targeted assistance programs when using Title I funds.

Scientifically-Based Research

Research that involves the application of rigorous, systemic, and objective procedures to obtain reliable and valid knowledge relevant to educational activities and programs. The No Child Left Behind refers to this numerous times.

Service-Learning

Instructional strategy that integrates learning in the classroom with service in the community.

Sight Vocabulary

Words that a child can read without having to sound them out.

Rr

Reading First National plan to provide money and support to local schools in an effort to help every student become a successful reader by the end of third grade.

Report Card A report about each school in the state. The school report card gives information about the school's academic performance, CSAP results, safety and discipline incidents, student/teacher ratio, teacher qualifications, and how taxpayer dollars are spent.

Resilience The ability to bounce back from a stressful event. Individuals, groups, and communities have the capacity to be resilient.

Resource Room A designated space where students go for special help, which can range from special education classes to small group or one-on-one instruction in special needs like speech and reading.

Response to Intervention (RTI) This based on the concept of providing evidence-based instructional and behavioral strategies by highly qualified staff that is matched to student needs and monitored on a frequent basis. The information gathered by this approach is used to make decisions regarding the student's educational program.

Rubric Levels of performance that are defined ahead of time in terms of concrete, specific, and observable behaviors. Both students and teachers use rubrics to measure the improvement in students work.

Kk

Kindergarten Readiness Strategies that parents and preschool teachers use to help young children get ready for kindergarten. The focus is on social/emotional learning, the joy of reading, and healthy physical development.

Kindergarten Round Up An orientation meeting for parents and their children who are scheduled to start kindergarten. This provides an opportunity to meet the principal and teachers, to see the classroom, and to learn about the kindergarten program.

Ll

Learning Disability A condition that makes it difficult for a student to learn. The cause of this can range from a physical disability (hearing or vision difficulties) to cognitive (deficient math processing) to emotional.

Learning Styles A way of understanding how individuals learn. Classroom activities are then designed to address all the different ways that students acquire and process information.

Ll

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who do not have disabilities, and special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

Letter Knowledge

The ability to identify the names and shapes of the letters of the alphabet.

Literacy

Includes all the activities involved in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and appreciating both spoken and written language.

Local Education Agency (LEA)

A board of education that provides leadership for public elementary or secondary schools in a school district.

Looping

The practice of having an entire class continue with the same teacher for more than one year.

Qq

Qualitative Data

Data that consists of words rather than numbers. Sources for information related to qualitative inquiry might include observations, interviews, or focus groups.

Quantitative Data

Typically involve counting measures or rating. May include surveys, rating scales, or checklists.

Quality Indicators

Standards and rubrics used to identify high quality educational practices, programs, curriculum, and materials.

Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA)

A measuring tool to mark each school's improved student performance in areas like math, reading, writing, social studies, and science. To make sure Kansas schools are providing the best teaching and learning system possible, the Kansas State Board of Education is charged with accrediting schools. This system actually looks at student results--output--to determine a school's quality. Quality Performance Accreditation provides the framework for each school to take a detailed look at how its students are performing by collecting various kinds of information. Based on discoveries from the information, schools chart their own plan for targeting student performance areas needing improvement.

Pp

Phonics	An understanding of the relationship between the sounds of spoken language and the letters in written language.
Portfolio	An organized collection of student's work. The portfolio is often used as a demonstration that a student has acquired a specific set of skills.
Print Awareness	The knowledge that printed words carry meaning and that reading and writing are ways to get ideas and information.
Prior Knowledge	What students know about a topic before they are introduced to a new learning.
Proficiency	Mastery or the ability to do something different at grade level.
Professional Development	Term used to describe the time educators spend learning new ideas and skills to help children learn.
Public School Choice	Legislation allowing children in failing schools to transfer to another public school or charter school within the same district with transportation provided.
Pullout Program	Taking students from the regular classroom for additional instruction in a specific set of skills. Often the instruction is provided one-to-one or in small groups by a specialist (e.g., Reading Recovery).

Mm

Magnet School	A public school that has particular focus for all learning activities (e.g., Math, science, technology, the arts).
Mainstreaming	The practice of placing students with disabilities into general education classrooms.
Manipulatives	Physical learning aids that students use to help them understand abstract concepts.
Metacognition	Defined as "thinking about thinking", it helps students to check their understanding.
Migrant Education	Educational services designed to meet the needs of students whose parents move frequently to gain employment in seasonal agricultural areas.
Multiple Intelligences	A theory of teaching and learning that identifies eight types of intelligences: verbal-linguistic, visual-spatial, musical-rhythmic, bodily-kinesthetic, naturalist, interpersonal, and intra personal.



Nn

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Assessment of what American students know and can do in various subjects.

National Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Provides information and support for parental involvement in education.

National Reading Panel

Reviewed the research on reading instruction and produced a report identifying methods that lead to reading success for students in kindergarten through third grade.

No Child Left Behind Act 2001

Federal law that provides guidance and money to assist schools and families in helping all children learn.

Norm Referenced Test

Standardized test to compare the performance of students with their peers nationally.

Oo

Opportunity to Learn

In the broadest sense, it means encouraging learning and development by making up the difference between what the most and the least privileged of children have. Helps to abolish the achievement gap by making sure students and school staff have what they need to be successful at high levels.

Outcomes

The results of the teaching and learning that takes place at the school. This is the same as the goals.

Pp

Paraprofessional

A teaching assistant who helps a teacher in the classroom and often works with students.

Parent Teacher Association

Provides information and support for parental involvement in education.

Parental Involvement

The participation of parents in regular, two-way, meaningful communication involving students' academic learning and other school activities. The involvement included ensuring that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; that parents are encouraged to be actively involved their child's education at school; that parents are full partners in their child's education are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

Parent/School Compact

A written agreement of shared responsibility that defines the goals and expectations of schools and parents as partners in the effort to improve student achievement. Schools are required to develop these with parental input.

Performance Based Assessment

Requires students to show what they know and can do by performing a hands-on task (e.g., producing a play, conducting a science experiment).

Phonemes

The smallest parts of spoken language that combine to form words.

Phonemic Awareness

The ability to hear, identify and manipulate the individual sounds--phonemes--in spoken words.