



Useful Terms and Definitions

Audiology services includes identifying children with hearing loss, determining the nature and degree of hearing loss, habilitation activities such as language habilitation, auditory training, lip reading, hearing evaluation.

Counseling services means services provided by qualified social workers, psychologists, guidance counselors, or other qualified personnel

Early identification and assessment of disabilities in children means the implementation of a formal plan for identifying a disability in a child's life as early as possible.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level.

Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) means special education and related services that are provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without charge; meet the standards of the State Education Agency; include an appropriate preschool, elementary school or secondary school education; and are provided in conformity with an individualized education plan (IEP).

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) refers to laws and regulations regarding the provision of special education and related services for students with disabilities.

Individual Education Program (IEP) means a written statement for each child with a disability that is developed, reviewed, and revised in a meeting and includes a statement of the child's present levels of academic achievement and functional performance, a statement of measurable annual goals, including academic and functional goals designed to meet the child's needs, and a statement of the special education and related services and supplementary aids and services.

Interpreting services includes oral translation services, cued language, sign language, and transcription services, as well as communication access in real-time translation. It also includes special interpreting services for children who are deaf-blind.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) refers to the educational placement which will best support a child's right to **FAPE**. This may not always include placement in a general education setting.



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Local Educational Agency (LEA) refers to the responsible **public agency**, in providing for the education of children with disabilities within its jurisdiction, must have in effect policies, procedures, and programs that are consistent with the State policies and procedures established under IDEA 34 CFR 300.101 through 300.163 and 300.165 through 300.177 and as defined in the Missouri State Plan for Special Education.

Medical services means services provided by a licensed physician to determine a child's medically related disability that results in the child's need for special education and related services.

Migrant Education and English Language Learning (MELL) Office of Quality Schools is a service provided by MO DESE to assist LEAs with ensuring that native language issues are resolved. In-depth information is available at <http://dese.mo.gov/qs/me/>.

Native Language means the language normally used by an individual who is limited English proficient or in the case of an individual with deafness, blindness or with no written language, the mode of communication that is normally used by the individual such as sign language, Braille or oral communication.

Occupational therapy means services provided by a qualified occupational therapist, and includes:

- improving, developing and restoring functions impaired or lost through illness, injury or deprivation;
- Improving ability to perform tasks for independent functioning if functions are impaired or lost; and
- Preventing, through early intervention, initial or further impairment or loss of function.

Orientation and Mobility means services provided to blind or visually impaired children by qualified personnel to enable those students to attain systematic orientation to and safe movement within their environment in school, home, and community.

Parent means a biological or adoptive parent; a foster parent; a guardian authorized to act as the child's parent, or authorized to make educational decisions for the child (but not the State if the child is a ward of the State; an individual acting in place of a biological or adoptive parent (including a grandparent, stepparent, or other relative) with whom the child lives, or an individual who is legally responsible for the child's welfare; or a surrogate parent who has been appointed.

A biological or adoptive parent, when more than one person is qualified as a 'parent' must be assumed to be the 'parent' for purposes of making educational decisions,



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unless the biological or adoptive parent does not have legal authority to do so. If court order or decree identifies a specific person or persons as the 'parent' of a child or to make educational decisions on behalf of the child, then that person shall be determined the 'parent' for this section.

Parent Counseling and Training means assisting parents in understanding the special needs of their child; providing parents information about child development; and holding parents to acquire the necessary skills that will allow them to support the implementation of their child's IEP or IFSP.

Personally identifiable information means information that contains the name of the child, the child's parent, or other family member; the address of the child; a personal identifier, such as the child's social security number or student number; or a list of personal characteristics or other information that would make it possible to identify the child with reasonable certainty.

Physical therapy means services provided by a qualified physical therapist.

Physical Education means the development of physical and motor fitness, fundamental motor skills and patterns; and skills in aquatics, dance and individual or group games and sports (including intramural and lifetime sports); and also includes special physical education, adapted physical education, movement education, and motor development.

Private or parochial school is any nonpublic not for profit private school, home school or religious/parochial school.

Psychological services include:

- Administering psychological and educational tests and other assessment procedures;
- Interpreting assessment results;
- Obtaining, integrating, and interpreting information about child behavior and conditions relating to learning;
- Consulting with other staff members in planning school programs to meet the special education needs of children indicated by psychological tests, interviews, direct observation, and behavioral evaluations;
- Planning and managing a program or psychological services, including psychological counseling for children and parents; and
- Assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies.



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Public Agency includes the state education agency (SEA), other state agencies, LEAs, public charter schools that are not otherwise included as LEAs and are not a school of an LEA and any other political subdivisions of the State that are responsible for providing education to children with disabilities.

Recreation includes assessment for leisure function, therapeutic recreation services, recreation programs in schools and community agencies, and leisure education.

Rehabilitation counseling services includes services provided by qualified personnel in individual or group sessions that focus specifically on career development, employment preparation, achieving independence, and integration in the workplace and community of a student with a disability. The term also includes vocational rehabilitation services provided to a student with a disability by vocational rehabilitation programs funded under the Rehabilitation Act.

Related services means transportation and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services as are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education, and includes speech-language pathology and audiology services, interpreting services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, recreation, including therapeutic recreation, early identification and assessment of disabilities in children, counseling services, including rehabilitative counseling, orientation and mobility services, and medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes. Related services also include school health services and school nurse services, social work services in school, and parent counseling and training.

School health services and school nurse services means health services that are designed to enable a child with a disability receive FAPE. School nurse services are services provided by a qualified school nurse or other qualified personnel.

Social work services include preparing a social or developmental history on a child, group or individual counseling with the child and family; working with parents and others to address problems that affect the child's adjustment in school; mobilizing school and community resources to enable the child to learn as effectively as possible in his or her educational program; as well as assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies.

Special Education means specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability, including –

- instruction conducted in the classroom, in the home, in hospitals or institutions, and in other setting; and
- instruction in physical education
- Speech language pathology , travel training, vocational education



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Specially designed instruction means adapting, as appropriate to the needs of the child, the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to address the child that result from their disability, and to ensure access to the general education curriculum, so that the child can meet the educational standards of the public agency (school district).

Speech-language pathology services include:

- Identification of children with speech or language impairments;
- Diagnosis and appraisal of specific speech or language impairments;
- Referral for medical or other professional attention necessary for the habilitation of speech or language impairments;
- Provision of speech and language services for the remediation or prevention of communication impairments; and
- Counseling and guidance for parents, children, and teachers regarding speech and language impairments.

Supplementary aids and services means services, and other supports that are provided in general education classes, other education-related settings, and in extracurricular and nonacademic settings, to enable children with disabilities to be educated with nondisabled children to the maximum extent appropriate

Transition Services means a coordinated set of activities designed to facilitate the individual's movement from school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational education, , integrated employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living or community participation.

Transportation includes travel to and from school and between schools; travel in and around school buildings; and specialized equipment (such as special or adapted buses, lifts, and ramps), if required to provide special

Travel Training means providing instruction, as appropriate, to children with significant cognitive disabilities, and any other children with disabilities who require this instruction to enable them to develop an awareness of the environment in which they live; and learn the skills necessary to move effectively and safely from place to place within that environment (e.g., in school, in the home, at work, and in the community).

Vocational Education means organized educational programs that are directly related to the preparation of individuals for paid or unpaid employment, of for additional preparation for a career not requiring a baccalaureate or advanced degree.

Ward of the State means a child who is a foster child, is a ward of the State or is in the custody of a public child welfare agency except for cases where a foster child has foster parent who meets the definition of a parent.