

# The Plain-Words Glossary

Every term the school will use, in words that make sense. Part of the Buckets & Barrels™ Tutor Kit.

## **ARD (Admission, Review & Dismissal)**

The Texas name for the big meeting where the team decides services, goals, and placement. Other states call it "the IEP meeting" — and in Texas the two names are interchangeable: your ARD IS your IEP meeting. Same table, same stakes.

## **IEP (Individualized Education Program)**

The legal plan for a child in special education: their goals, services, accommodations, and placement. Rewritten at least once a year — at the ARD.

## **504 Plan**

A plan for a child who needs accommodations but not specialized instruction. Lighter than an IEP — no goals, no special ed placement — but still legally binding.

## **FIE (Full and Individual Evaluation)**

The complete evaluation that opens the special education door — cognitive testing, academics, and everything in between. This is where the standard scores come from.

## **Accommodation vs. Modification**

The pair everyone confuses — and the distinction that wins meetings. An ACCOMMODATION changes HOW your child learns (extra time, directions read aloud); the work stays the same. A MODIFICATION changes WHAT your child learns; the work itself is different.

## **Placement (inclusion · resource · self-contained)**

WHERE instruction happens, decided subject by subject. Inclusion: the general classroom with support inside it. Resource: a smaller special ed class for that subject. Self-contained: a special ed classroom for most or all of the day. General ed with accommodations or modified curriculum sits in between.

## **BIP (Behavior Intervention Plan)**

The plan for reading and responding to behavior — what triggers it, what calms it, what the adults agree to do. Behavior is the pressure gauge, not the problem.

## Eligibility (category)

The label under which a child qualifies for special education. A child can carry several — primary, secondary, third, even fourth and fifth — and the second and third shape learning just as much as the first. All 13, by their correct names, so you know exactly what you are looking at:

- Autism (AU)
- Deaf-Blindness (DB)
- Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH)
- Emotional Disturbance (ED)
- Intellectual Disability (ID)
- Multiple Disabilities (MD)
- Orthopedic Impairment (OI)
- Other Health Impairment (OHI) — ADHD usually lives here
- Specific Learning Disability (SLD) — dyslexia often lives here
- Speech or Language Impairment (SI)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Visual Impairment (VI)
- Noncategorical Early Childhood (NCEC) — Texas only, ages 3–5

## 2E (Twice-Exceptional)

A child who is GIFTED and has a DISABILITY — at the same time, in the same brain. A full barrel and a leaky bucket, side by side. The gift hides the struggle; the struggle hides the gift — so many 2E kids are never identified for either.

## Dyslexia intervention

A structured reading program taught with very specific methods, in a very specific order. Home helpers — human or AI — support AROUND it and never re-teach it; mixing methods confuses a child.

## GT / Gifted

Gifted and Talented — identified strengths that qualify a child for enrichment. Yes, a child can be GT and in special education at once. That is exactly what 2E means.

## Standard score

The main number from an evaluation. 100 is dead average; most kids land between 90 and 110. It is a comparison to other children the same age — not a grade, and not a judgment.

## The scores that come home

STAAR: the Texas state test — ask for the detailed report, not just the passing label. MAP Growth (RIT): a season-by-season growth measure. Istation/ISIP: a monthly reading check many districts use. Lexile: a reading level. Quantile: the math version of a Lexile.

## IEP progress report

The report card for the IEP goals themselves, sent each grading period. It answers one question: is the plan actually working?

## SLP · OT

Speech-Language Pathologist — evaluates and treats speech and language. Occupational Therapist — handwriting, motor skills, sensory needs, the mechanics of the school day.

## De-identify

Removing everything that says WHO before information goes near an AI: name, birthdate, school, ID numbers, teacher and doctor names. Information that is never entered can never leak.

## Barrels & buckets (Gc, Gf, Gwm, Gs, Glr, Gv, Ga, Gq, Grw)

The Buckets & Barrels™ way of seeing the brain: two big barrels (the library and the figure-it-out system) and seven buckets (the specialists). Every vessel holds a different kind of thinking — the Clarity Guides tell each one's story.

### Meet a term that isn't here?

Ask the tutor: "Explain this like I'm the parent, not the psychologist." That prompt never wears out.