



Definitions Relevant to Intellectual Disabilities

ABLE Accounts

Special savings accounts for people with disabilities that allow them to save money for disability-related expenses.

Access Card

Card used by Medicaid recipients to obtain medical services.

Administrative Entity (AE)

This is typically a county MH/ID (Mental Health/Intellectual Disability) program that handles fiscal and administrative services for the DHS (Deartment of Human Services, formerly known as the DPW- Deartment of Public Welfare). They oversee supports coordinating organizations and implement waiver programs.

Guardianship

Purpose is to provide a court-approved overseer for the needs of an “incapacitated” individual. A petition must be filed in Orphans’ Court. This is followed by a hearing & medical testimony before a decision is made.

HCSIS (Home and Community Services Information System)

Web-based system that tracks individual support plans, demographics, enrollment, and eligibility for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

ISP (Individual Support Plan)

This planning document outlines the services and supports that address the needs of a waiver recipient.

Federal Benefit Rate

The portion of the monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) funded by the Social Security Department.

Medicaid versus Medicare

Short answer is that the former is free public health insurance based on low income. Everyone comes into Medicare when they turn 65. It is also possible to come into Medicare earlier if you have a disability yourself and your parent dies, retires, or becomes disabled themselves.



Person-Centered Planning

This type of planning considers the individual's unique needs, strengths, interests & abilities. Such planning maximizes the individual's quality of life.

Person First Language

Avoids referring to people by their diagnosis. For example, instead of autistic students, say students with autism. Instead of disabled people, say people with disabilities.

Representative Payee

He/she handles the social security deposits for someone who is not capable of managing finances. The representative payee pays bills, provides monthly personal spending money, and completes a yearly report for social security explaining how much was saved, banked and spent.

Special Needs Trusts

Trusts are set up so that a person with a disability does not come into any money directly, thus jeopardizing eligibility for government benefits. There are several kinds of trusts. They can be funded by gifts, donations, through the proceeds of a legal settlement, or by life insurance left in trust for the disabled beneficiary.

SSI Resource Limit

The resource limit is the amount of money or savings a person can have and still be eligible for SSI. The limit is \$2,000 for one person and \$3,000 for a couple if both have a disability.

SSI versus SSDI

SSI is based on low income. SSDI is based on the disabled worker's lifetime average earnings.

Support Coordinators

Formerly known as case managers, support coordinators help locate, coordinate, and monitor services and supports for individuals with an intellectual disability.

Waivers

In the field of intellectual disabilities, waivers are Medicaid funded programs that provide substantial community supports so that an individual does not have to be placed in an institution.



Special Education Acronyms & Common Terms

ABA Applied Behavior Analysis

This branch of behavioral science seeks to improve/modify unwanted behaviors. It is often used for children with autism.

ASD Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism spectrum disorders are a group of complex developmental disabilities characterized by problems with communication, social interaction, & unusual patterns of behavior and interests. A diagnosis can be made by a developmental pediatrician, a pediatric neurologist, a child & adolescent psychiatrist or a psychologist.

AYP Adequate Yearly Progress

AYP is the degree of progress expected of children in academic areas. It is annually established by the PA Department of Education.

BEC Basic Education Circular

This is an official document used by the PA Department of Education to communicate with school districts regarding policy & to clarify the policies when necessary.

CS Charter School

A charter school is an independent public school established and operated under a charter from the local board of school directors. They are often under fire for not meeting the needs of students with disabilities.

DD Developmental Disability

A developmental disability is a physical or mental condition that begins before the age of 18 years, causes the child to acquire skills at a slower rate than his or her peers, continues indefinitely, and impairs the child's ability to function in society.

Due Process

This is a process for resolving a dispute between a family and an early intervention program or a local educational agency related to the identification, evaluation, placement, or program of a child with disabilities.

ESY Extended School Year

Free special education services that extend beyond the traditional academic year. The decision to provide ESY is made by the IEP team & should be written into the student's IEP.

FAPE Free and Appropriate Public Education

FAPE is a federal mandate that benefits children with disabilities. At no cost to their families, these children must receive appropriate educational programs that are tailored to their unique needs.



FBA Functional Behavioral Assessment

This assessment is used to identify the reason for, or purpose of, a child's problem behaviors in order to determine and implement a plan to change what is maintaining the behavior and to teach the child appropriate replacement behaviors.

Gaskins Settlement

This legal settlement refers to a class action law suit that was filed against the PA Dept. of Education on behalf of students with disabilities. The lead plaintiff was Lydia Gaskin. The law suit was litigated for 10 years before the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia prevailed on behalf of their plaintiffs. Many positive changes occurred due to the Gaskin Settlement, chief of which were ongoing monitoring, the creation of local task forces, and the focus on education in the least restrictive environment.

IEP Individual Education Program

The IEP is a written statement of the child's current level of educational performance and of the child individual plan of instruction, including the goals, specific services to be received, the staff members who will carry out the services, the standards and timelines for evaluating progress, and the amount and degree to which the child will participate with typically developing peers in the least restrictive environment.

Intermediate Unit

A regional educational agency that can provide special education services such as staffing, curriculum, technology, and professional development to schools. In the Lehigh Valley, IU 20 serves Northampton County and IU21 serves Lehigh and Carbon Counties.

Inclusion

A philosophy that is supported by research. Inclusion is a practice & belief that it is best for everyone if students with disabilities are educated in the neighborhood schools in general education classrooms with their typical peers (students who do not have a disability).

LRE Least Restrictive Environment

LRE is an IDE a requirement indicating that children with disabilities, including children and public or private institutions or other care facilities, must be educated with children who are not disabled, to the maximum extent possible.

PARC Consent

In 1971, The Arc of PA sued the Commonwealth of PA over the rights of children with disabilities to attend school. A series of similar right to education cases ensued, based on the precedent-setting role of the PARC Consent. Rules established by the PARC Consent: All children, with & without disabilities, are entitled to a free public education; placement in a regular classroom is preferable to segregated or



self-contained calluses; parents are entitled to a hearing before any change in educational placement can be made; and children with ID must be re-evaluated on a regular basis.

PSN Procedural Safeguard Notice

This document summarizes parents' rights under state and federal special education law.

SLD Specific Learning Disability

SLD is a disability category under IDEA. It includes disorders that affect the ability to understand or use spoken or written language. It may include difficulties with listening, thinking, speaking, reading, writing, spelling, and doing mathematical calculations.

UDL Universal Design for Learning

UDL is an approach to creating instructional materials and activities that are accessible to all, rather than simply adapting existing curricula and materials to provide for the person with disabilities.

Wraparound Services

Wraparound community mental health services that are prescribed by physicians to be provided in home and school settings. Services are based on medical necessity criteria and are funded through medical assistance. Three components can be provided in almost any combination. These include: behavior specialist consultation (BSC) mobile therapy (MB) and therapeutic staff support (TSS).