



New York State
School Boards
Association

2020
**Common Education Terminology
and Acronyms**

Academic Intervention Services (AIS) – Services required of the school district to provide extra help to students who are not yet meeting state learning standards.

Accountability – Requiring school districts and states to ensure that schools meet their goals/standards.

Alternative assessment – Any testing instrument other than standardized, multiple-choice questions, such as short-answer response and extended response, observation, individual or group performance assessment, and portfolios.

Annual Professional Performance

Review (APPR) – An annual evaluation of teachers and principals that school boards and Boards of Cooperative Education (BOCES) must conduct, in accordance with law and the commissioner’s regulations. In addition, each school board and BOCES must adopt an APPR plan to be filed in the district or BOCES office and made available for public review by September 10 of each year.

Appropriation – An authorization from the board of education or voters to make expenditures and to incur monetary obligations for specific purposes.

Assessed valuation – The monetary worth of all property in the district as determined by the municipal assessor.

Average daily attendance – The aggregate days of attendance during a given reporting period divided by the number of days school is in session during that period.

Basic Education Data System (BEDS) – The State Education Department’s system for collecting basic information on all the state’s elementary and secondary schools.

Block grants – Federal or state funding distributed in a lump sum directly to states or localities to administer and direct programs.

Boards of Cooperative Educational Services BOCES – are formed by a voluntary cooperative association of school districts in a geographical area that band together to provide services, such as special education and vocational programs, to their component local school districts.

BOCES aid – State funds to reimburse a district for part of the cost of BOCES services.

Charter school – An “independent and autonomous public school” established under state charter school law, eligible for funding from both private and public local, state and federal monies.

Cohort - As group of students who are educated at the same time. Example: a grade level or class of students.

Co-teaching - An instructional structure in which two teachers are equally responsible and accountable for the classroom.

Commissioner of Education – The chief executive officer of the Board of Regents and the State Education Department appointed by the Board of Regents to enforce laws and policies relating to the state education system.

Contingency budget – The budget adopted by a board of education after a proposed budget or budget revote is defeated.

Cooperative Service application (Co-Ser) - A BOCES request to the commissioner of education for approval to operate a service.

Core curriculum – The body of knowledge that all students are expected to learn.

Data-driven decision making – Analyzing varied forms of data to identify educational strengths and/or weaknesses to plan for and implement improvements in student achievement as well as monitoring trends, and using this information to make decisions about the effectiveness of continuation or changes in district practices, curriculum, programs, procedures and policies.



- Demographic data** – Information describing the students and citizens of a school district; usually includes characteristics such as race, age, gender, income, educational level, birth rate, and profession.
- Distance learning** – A mode of delivering education and instruction via the internet without a student physically attending the class.
- Education policy** – Governing principles that serve as guidelines or rules for decision making and action in setting and achieving educational objectives.
- Equalization rate** – The percentage of full value at which taxable real property in a county, city, town or village is assessed as determined by the New York State Board of Real Property Services.
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** - The nation's education law that replaced the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- Executive session** – A portion of the school board meeting that is not open to the public.
- Foundation aid** – A state aid formula which provides that the majority of school aid is distributed by a clear and predictable stream of funding.
- Freedom of Information Law (FOIL)** – A law that gives the public access to government records, as a way to foster increased understanding of and participation in government. The law provides procedures for requests and a list of the kinds of records that are exempted.
- Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)** – sets the accounting rules for all governmental entities, including school districts
- Inclusion** – Educating students with disabilities as appropriate in a regular classroom setting along with students without disabilities.
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)** – A written statement outlining the plan for providing an educational program for a disabled student based on the unique needs of that student.
- Magnet school** – A school that offers enriched curriculum in one or more subject areas; sometimes used as a means of desegregation.
- New York State Learning standards** – The level of knowledge, skills and understanding that students should be able to demonstrate over time as a result of instruction or experience. There are two types of standards, according to the State Education Department: content standards (what children should know, understand and be able to do as a result of their schooling) and performance standards (acceptable levels of student achievement).
- Open Meetings Law** – A law that governs the conduct of board of education meetings, including giving notice, taking minutes and executive sessions.
- Performance-based assessment** – Tests which measure students' abilities to perform tasks and solve problems rather than choosing answers from a number of possibilities.
- Property Tax Cap** – The tax cap limits a local government's (including school districts) overall growth in the property tax levy to 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less.
- Response to Intervention (RTI)** – A method of academic intervention that is designed to provide effective assistance to children who are having difficulty learning through early intervention, frequent progress measurement, and increasingly intensive research-based instructional interventions for children who continue to have difficulty.
- Restorative Justice** - An approach to addressing problematic behavior that focuses on building relationships and repairing harm, rather than punishing student behavior.



Student growth model – An accountability system that tracks student performance over time.

Tenure – Guaranteed job security, granted by state law to teachers, and other specified educators, after satisfactory probationary service, which cannot be rescinded except for cause.

Title I – A federal aid program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to provide schools with a high percentage of low income families with additional funds to improve academic achievement.

Title IX - Education Amendments of 1972, bans sex discrimination in schools receiving federal funds in both academics and athletics.

Triborough Amendment – An amendment to the Taylor Law, part of the Civil Service Law, that requires the terms of an expired collective bargaining agreement to remain in effect until a new one is negotiated.

Voucher – A way to allocate and distribute education money directly to parents to pay for their children’s education in a public or private school.

Wicks Law – A section of the General Municipal Law that requires school districts to award separate contracts for plumbing, heating/air/ventilation and electrical work.



AASA – American Association of School Administrators	ENL – English as a New Language
ACEs - Adverse Childhood Experiences	ERS – Employees’ Retirement System
ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act; also Average daily attendance	ESEA – Elementary and Secondary Education Act
ADD/ADHD – Attention deficit disorder/Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	ESSA – Every Student Succeeds Act
AED – Automated external defibrillators	FAPE - Free Appropriate Public Education
AGE – Average grade enrollment	FERPA – Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
AIS – Academic Intervention Services	FTE – Full-time equivalent
AP Program – Advanced Placement program	GAO – Government Accountability Office
APPR – Annual professional performance review	GAAP – Generally accepted accounting principles
BEDS – Basic educational data system	GASB – Governmental Accounting Standards Board
BOCES – Boards of Cooperative Educational Services	HSE – High School Equivalency Diploma
CDOS – Career development and occupational studies	IDA – Industrial development agency
CIPA – Children’s Internet Protection Act	IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
CPSE – Committee on Preschool Special Education	IEP – Individualized education prog
CRT – Criterion-referenced test	LRE - Least Restrictive Environment
CSD – Central School District	NAEP – National Assessment of Educational Progress
CSE – Committee on special education	NCLB – No Child Left Behind Act
CSI - Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools	NSBA – National School Boards Association
CTE – Career and technical education	NYCOM – New York State Conference of Mayors & Other Municipal Officials
DASA – Dignity for All Students Act	NYCRR – New York Code of Rules and Regulations
DARE – Drug Abuse Resistance Education	NYLA – New York Library Association
DSS – Disability Support Services	NYSASBO – New York State Association of School Business Officials
ECB – Educational Conference Board	NYSAA – New York State Alternate Assessment Program
ELA – English language arts	NYSAP – New York State Assessment Program
ELL – English Language Learners	NYSASA – New York State Association of School Attorneys
	NYSAWA – New York State Association of Women in Administration



NYSCOSS – New York State Council of School Superintendents; “The Council” (preferred)

NYSED – New York State Education Department

NYSGFOA – New York State Government Finance Officers Association

NYSMASA – New York State Middle Schools Association

NYSSBA – New York State School Boards Association

NYSSMA – New York State School Music Association

NYSTCE – New York State Teacher Certification Examination Program

NYSUT – New York State United Teachers

PAC – Political action committee

PBIS - Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support

PERB – Public Employment Relations Board

PILOT – Payment in lieu of taxes

PINS – Persons in need of supervision

PLA – Project labor agreement

Project SAVE – Safe Schools Against Violence in Education

RCT – Regents competency test

SAANYS – School Administrators Association of New York State

SARA – State Archives & Records Administration

SASS – System of Accountability of Student Success

SES – Supplemental educational services

SRO - School Resource Officer

STAR – School tax relief program

STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

STW – School-to-Work

SURR Schools – Schools Under Registration Review

TSI - Targeted Support and Improvement Schools

UFSD – Union Free School District

UPK – Universal prekindergarten

YRE – Year-Round Education

