

# Glossary



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**Advocate:**

Someone who takes action to help someone else.

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**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**

A federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment.

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**Apgar:**

A method of evaluating the overall well-being of a newborn.

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**Area Board:**

Established to monitor and review the service delivery system for persons with developmental disabilities in each region.

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**Assessment:**

The observing and testing of children in order to identify their strengths and needs, and to monitor progress.

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**Assessment Plan:**

The description of the battery of tests to be used in a particular student's assessment.

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**At-Risk:**

A term used to describe children who have, or could have developmental problems that could later affect learning.

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**Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD or ADHD):**

A behavioral disorder characterized by short attention span, excessive impulsiveness, and inappropriate hyperactivity.

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**Audiological Services:**

A related service that helps children with hearing loss maximize their strengths and abilities.

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**Auditory Processing:**

The ability to understand and use information that is heard; both words as well as other non-verbal sounds.

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**Autism:**

A disability characterized by severe language and communication defects, lack of normal relatedness, and lack of most normal functional skills.

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**Bayley Scales of Infant Development:**

A widely used infant scale that provides a diagnostic measure of an infant's mental abilities.

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**Behavior Disorder:**

Behavior that causes a child to have difficulty learning or getting along with others. The causes of this disorder may vary greatly.

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**California Children's Services (CCS):**

A federal funding source for children with special health care needs.

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**Cerebral Palsy (CP):**

A neurological movement disorder characterized by a lack of muscle control and impairment in the coordination of movement.

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**Child Health & Disability Developmental Program (CHDP):**

A preventative health program that provides early no-cost health care and information to children and youth.

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**Child Protective Services (CPS):**

A branch of the Department of Human Services charged with the investigation of charges of abuse against children.

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**Chronologically, age-appropriate:**

Making the activities, behaviors, or settings of a disabled child as similar as possible to a non-disabled child of the same age.

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**Community Advisory Council (CAC):**

A group of parents with children with disabilities and special education professionals who advise the school board about special education programs.

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**Community-Based Instruction (CBI):**

A model for delivery of instruction in which IEP goals are met in a "natural," age-appropriate setting.

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**Community Behavioral Health Services (CBHS):**

The agency designated to provide mental health assessment and services to students with special needs.

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**Compliance Complaint:**

The specific issue and/or resolution process involved when a school district is accused of violating federal law.

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**Counseling:**

A related service; includes parents and children receiving assistance from social workers, psychologists, and guidance counselors.

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**Department of Developmental Services (DDS):**

Provides services and supports to persons with developmental disabilities.

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**Department of Rehabilitation (DR):**

A state and federally funded program offering a variety of services for individuals with disabilities and employers looking to hire qualified candidates.

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**Designated Instruction & Services (DIS):**

Specialized instruction and/or support services identified through an assessment and written in an IEP as necessary for a child to benefit from special education.

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**Developmental Delay:**

A term used to describe the development of children when they are not able to perform the skills that other children of the same age are usually able to perform.

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**Developmental History:**

The progress a child has made developing skills or milestones.

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**Developmental Skills/Milestones:**

Actions a child is expected to perform within a given age range.

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**Developmental Tests:**

Standardized tests that measure a child's development as it compares to the development of all other children that age.

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**Due Process:**

The procedures used to make sure parents and educators make fair decisions about the identification, assessment, and placement of children with disabilities.

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## **Early Childhood Specialists:**

A childhood development counselor, someone who usually has a Master's degree or Ph.D. in early childhood development, related to early childhood education and/or development.

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## **Early Intervention:**

Services and programs for infants and young children who are experiencing a delay in developmental milestones, have disabilities, or who are at-risk for developing handicapping conditions.

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## **EPSDT - Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment:**

Mandatory Medicaid (Medi-Cal) benefits and services for eligible children under 21; designed to ensure access to early and comprehensive preventative health care and treatment.

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## **Early Start:**

California's term for early intervention services provided under Part C of the Individuals w/ Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

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## **Early Intervention Program:**

A program in which problems that have been discovered in a child's development are remedied before the child's later development and learning are seriously affected.

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**Emotionally Disturbed (ED):**

Having a behavior problem that prevents learning and/or getting along with other people. The behavior must have continued for at least six months and been severe.

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**Entitlement:**

The legal right to certain services and benefits.

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**Evaluation:**

A way of collecting information about a child's learning needs, strengths, and interests.

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**Extended School Year (ESY):**

Special education and related services in excess of those provided during the regular academic year.

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**Fair Hearing:**

A formal meeting held by an outside individual to resolve a disagreement about regional center services or a child's education program.

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**Family Resource Center (FSC):**

Provides information, education, and support to families of children with special health care needs.

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**Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE):**

Requires that an education program be provided for all school-age children without cost to families

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**Full Inclusion:**

An opportunity for children with disabilities to attend their neighborhood schools and participate full-time in regular classroom programs with their age group peers; an evolutionary process in which the needs of the individual student are addressed by general and special education staff

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**Goals:**

A list of skills/behaviors that a parent, teacher, and child will be aiming for over the next year. They are based on the child's needs

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**Head Start:**

A federally-funded preschool program that services children with low-income families to meet the child's educational, social, health, nutritional, and emotional needs

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**Healthy Families:**

Plan to provide health insurance for low-income children in families with incomes too high to qualify for Medi-Cal



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**Health & Nursing Services:**

Health-related services provided by a school nurse or other trained professional

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**Hearing Impaired (HI):**

A hearing loss that interferes with the ability to understand or use spoken language that affects learning in school

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**Identification:**

The referral to the school district of a child who may be eligible for special education services

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**Identification & Assessment (I and A):**

The process by which students' special needs are evaluated

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**Inclusion:**

Being part of a whole. For children with special needs, to be part of activities and experiences with typical peers

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**Individualized Education Program (IEP):**

A plan of services for children receiving special education services through IDEA

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**Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP):**

A plan that includes the services necessary to meet the unique needs of the child and family

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**Individualized Program Plan (IPP):**

The plan outlining services a child will receive from the Golden Gate Regional Center

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**Individualized Transition Plan (ITP):**

An educational plan designed to facilitate students moving from one setting to another (e.g. from one classroom or school to another)

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**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):**

The federal law that mandates and regulates special education services for all children with disabilities ages 0-21

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**Informed Consent:**

A parent's written permission to assess their child, provide services to the child, or place the child in a special education setting

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**Institutional Deeming:**

Allows children with disabilities to qualify for Medi-Cal without regard to parents' income or assets

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**Intake:**

The process an agency uses to determine if a child is eligible for the services they offer

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**Interagency:**

Between or among agencies

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**Interdisciplinary Team:**

A team emphasizing interaction among a variety of disciplines

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**Integration:**

The joining of two groups that were previously separated; in this case, non-disabled children and children with disabilities

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**Language Delay:**

A delay in the development of a child's ability to use or understand knowledge

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**Lanterman Act:**

California law that establishes the rights of persons with developmental disabilities to services and supports they need and choose. This law is administered through the Department of Developmental Services and services are provided through the California Regional Center system

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**Lead Agency:**

The state agency in charge of overseeing and coordinating early intervention services

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**Learning Disability (LD):**

When a child's regular education program classroom performance is significantly below expected levels

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**Least Restrictive Environment (LRE):**

A term meaning that children with disabilities must be educated with children without disabilities

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**Limited English Proficiency (LEP):**

Refers to students whose primary language is other than English. A student may be eligible for both bilingual and special education

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**Low-Incidence Disability:**

A state-defined disability that qualifies for certain extra funding; includes visual and/or hearing impairments

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**Mainstreaming:**

A term referring to the time during which a special education student participates in chronologically age-appropriate regular age activities, either academic or non-academic

**Mediation:**

A meeting of parents and school district personnel aimed at reaching an agreement regarding the child's educational program

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**Medical Therapy Unit (MTU):**

The unit providing assessment and remediation services by occupational therapists, physical therapists, and adaptive physical education teachers to children who have fine and gross motor problems that are interfering with their educational process

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**Medi-Cal:**

California's public program that pays for health and long-term care services for low-income Californians, as well as others with very high medical expenses. Medi-Cal offers two types of coverage: Fee for Service and Managed Care

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**Medi-Cal Waivers:**

These waivers allow some children with special needs, whose parents are over income limits, to qualify for Medi-Cal benefits

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**Multidisciplinary:**

The involvement of two or more disciplines or professions in the provision of services

**Multi-Disabled:**

Having two or more disabilities

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**Multidisciplinary Team:**

Refers to the involvement of two or more disciplines or professions, the parent or guardian, in the provision of integrated and coordinated services, including evaluation, assessment, and IFSP development

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**Natural Environments:**

Early intervention services provided in the natural environment to the maximum extent appropriate, including home and community settings in which the infant or toddler without disabilities participate

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**Non-Public School (NFS):**

A private placement under contract with the district and certified by the state, to service pupils with disabilities whose needs cannot be served by the special education programs offered at SFUSD

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**Objectives:**

The steps to be accomplished to reach a child's goals. Objectives serve as a guide for planning and carrying out learning activities

**Occupational Therapy (OT):**

Therapy to assist a child with severe balance and coordination problems, perceptual motor deficits, and difficulty in the performance of daily living skills; given when assessment shows that motor and perceptual difficulties interfere with classroom performance

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**Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP):**

Special education office of the US Department of Education

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**Other Health Impaired (OHI):**

Having a chronic health problem that affects learning in school

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**Orientation & Mobility (O&M):**

A child with visual impairments is trained to know where their body is in space and to move through space

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**Orthopedically Handicapped (OH):**

A disability involving the neuromuscular skeletal system that affects the ability to move, as in paralysis or cerebral palsy

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**Part C:**

The part of the IDEA act that mandates and regulates early intervention services for infants and toddlers ages birth to three

**Parent Counseling:**

Where parents receive support in understanding the special needs of their child

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**Parent Rights:**

An entitlement granted under law such as the right to appeal or the right to full access

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**Parent Training:**

Where parents receive specific training in skills that are required to implement their child's IEP

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**Payor of Last Resort:**

A term used to describe a situation where funds are not to be used to satisfy a financial commitment for services that would otherwise be paid for from another public or private source

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**Perceptual Motor Skills:**

The ability to perceive a situation, evaluate it, and make a judgment about what actions to take

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**Physical Therapy (PT):**

Therapy to remedy mobility and gait, and to modify strength, balance, tone, and posture; given when assessment shows a discrepancy between motor performance and other educational skills



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**Placement:**

The classroom, program, and/or therapy that is selected for a student with special needs

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**Program Placement:**

The educational setting or site for delivery of special education services; placement is included in the IEP and occurs after IEP is written

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**Protection & Advocacy, Inc. (PAI):**

The agency appointed under federal law to protect the civil, legal, and service rights of Californians with disabilities

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**Public Agency:**

An agency, office, or organization that is supported by public funds and serves the community at large

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**Psychological Services:**

Includes psychological testing and psychological counseling for parents and children

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**Referral:**

A recommendation for assessment to determine if a specialized service is required and at what level

**Related Services:**

Transportation and developmental, corrective, and other support services that a child with disabilities requires in order to benefit from education

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**Regional Centers:**

Mandated by the Lanterman Act to provide access to the services in the community for persons with developmental disabilities

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**Resource Specialist Program (RSP):**

Students who can participate in regular education may also receive special education instruction in the RSP

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**Reverse Mainstreaming:**

When non-disabled children go to a special education classroom to play and learn with children who are disabled

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**Section 504:**

Part of the federal Rehabilitation Act that prohibits discrimination in the education of children and youth with disabilities; vocational education; college and other post-secondary programs; employment; health, welfare, and other programs

**Service Coordination:**

Activities carried out by a service coordinator/case manager to assist and enable a child and their family to receive services

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**Severe Cognitive Disability (SCD):**

Having a moderate delay in the ability to learn and function independently in the everyday environment

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**Severe Disorder of Language (SDL):**

Difficulty understanding language or using language to the extent that it interferes with language

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**Severely Disabled (SD):**

A general disability category containing the currently used labels of mentally handicapped, handicapped, emotionally disturbed, autistic, and multi-handicapped

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**Special Day Class:**

A special education service setting comprised entirely of special education students

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**Special Education (SPED):**

Instruction or education that is required to meet the needs of children with special needs that cannot be supplied through modification in the regular education program

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**Special Education Intake Unit (SEIU):**

The intake center within Special Education Services which processes the referrals and conducts the assessments of children referred for special education services

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**Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA):**

The county office from which some special education resources are funded

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**Special Needs:**

Children with disabilities who require special adaptations made to their instruction or environment in order to learn

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**Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD):**

A chronic condition that selectively interferes with the development, integration, and/or demonstration of verbal and/or non-verbal abilities

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**Speech Therapy:**

Helps children learn to speak and use language; speech therapy is given by a speech pathologist or speech and language therapist

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**State Department of Education:**

Also referred to as SDE in federal law

**Student Success Team (SST):**

A regular education process designed to make preliminary modifications within the regular education program of a student not succeeding in class. Each SST is to meet on a weekly basis.

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**Transition:**

A time in a person's life when he/she moves from one educational program to another (for example, from an infant program to preschool)

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**Transition Plan:**

A part of IFSP which is done when a child is 2.6 years old. It is developed by the families, regional center, service coordinator, public school personnel, and other members of the multi-agency team. The transition plan includes specific steps to help families and children through the process

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**Travel Training:**

Traning to enable a student to be independent on public transportation

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**Vision Services:**

Instruction that helps children with visual impairments to maximize their visual abilities

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**Visual Motor Skills:**

The ability to adjust movement based on what is seen; includes hand-eye coordination (activities such as cutting and handwriting)

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**Vision Impairment (VI):**

A vision loss affecting the ability to learn in school

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**Vocational Education (Voc Ed):**

Education beginning in middle school through age 21 in which special education students participate in an adequately and appropriately supportive work model that may include off-site job training

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