

Jargon Busters

(alphabetical order)

ASD (autism spectrum disorder): this spectrum of developmental disorders has changed some over recent years and now includes autism, Asperger's syndrome, ADHD and the former nonverbal learning disability category. Ranges of disorders on this spectrum usually involve, to some degree, social understanding and communication issues.

BHDDH - Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals. RI state agency that serves Rhode Islanders who live with mental illness, substance use disorder and/or a developmental disability. The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) part of BHDDH. The Division of Developmental Disabilities is responsible for planning, funding and overseeing a community system of services and support for adults with developmental disabilities.

CBM (curriculum based measure) - A method teachers and other educators use to measure a student's progression towards mastery of basic subjects including math, reading, and writing.

CDP (career development plan) – This is a comprehensive plan that is a long term process of collecting information, reviewing experiences, likes and interests that is documented in a comprehensive plan (CDP) to outline and develop a vocational goal for an individual with an intellectual disability. A CDP is a series of activities that involve seeking, securing and maintaining employment for an individual with a disability.

COS (child outcome summary): A testing method that measures a child's social-emotional skills, describes how they acquire and use knowledge and skills, and how they use appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

FBA: Functional Behavior Assessment: An assessment that examines, through varying techniques and approaches, ways to approach changing a student's behaviors by understanding the purposes behind the behaviors. An FBA requires parent consent and is different from a personal behavior plan (PBP).

LD - learning disorder

LRE (least restrictive environment) – Is the requirement of federal law that students with disabilities receive their education, to the maximum extent appropriate, with nondisabled peers and that special education students are not removed from the regular class unless, even with supplemental aids and services, education in the regular class cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

LEA - Local Education Agency; another name for what is, in South Kingstown, the school district.

MTSS (Multi-tiered support systems) – formerly known as RTI - Response to Intervention. This is a systems of supports and services provided to all students disabled or otherwise. This system is to prevent and identify students who are at-risk or struggling to access the core instruction and have been identified as requiring supports. Teams meet to discuss student data and needs and develop plans to intervene accordingly based on best practice and evidence based interventions. Currently (Spring 2018), Christine Levy is the MTSS Coordinator in SK.

OHI (other health impaired) – This is a category sometimes used when determining a student eligible for special education. This category often is used when a student does not falling into one of the other more specific category options such as learning disabled, language disabled or autism.

ORS - Office of Rehabilitative Services. Part of the Rhode Island Department of Human Services. Their mission is to empower individuals with disabilities to choose, prepare for, obtain and maintain employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence and integration into society.

OT (occupational therapist) – An occupational therapist is a licensed healthcare professional. In the school setting, their role encompasses supporting students in their daily activities or “occupations”. An occupational therapist can work directly with students with disabilities who are eligible for special education services or act as a consultant to regular educators with the overall goal of having students met success within the educational environment. An occupational therapist can address a wide range of needs such as fine motor, visual perceptual and visual motor development as well as sensory processing and self help skills as it relates to the individual student need and educational setting. Additionally, occupational therapists have insight into making classroom modifications and using adaptive equipment in order for the student to increase his/her independence in the academic environment.

PBIS (positive behavior interventions and support): a school-based and school-wide system of teaching positive behaviors. Behavioral expectations are set and taught, and expected to be consistent throughout the different times and areas of the school day.

PBP (Personal Behavior Plan): A plan made for an individual student with the goal of assisting the student with exhibiting appropriate school behaviors.

PLP (Personal Literacy Plan): A plan made with the goal of bringing the student up towards or to the grade level expectations in literacy. These goals are specific to the student.

PMP (Personal Math Plan): A plan made with the goal of bringing the student up towards or to the grade level expectations in math. These goals are specific to the student.

PT (physical therapy) - Physical Therapy is a related service in the school environment and can only be provided to students who need special education. Physical Therapy in the school setting focuses on natural opportunities for children to develop and practice motor competence in the least restrictive environment. It is provided in an educationally relevant way, providing direct service, consulting with team members, and providing adaptive equipment for support and positioning, as needed to allow students to access their education.

RIELDS - RI Early Learning Development Standards (ages birth to age 5): according to RIDE (RI Dept of Education, "The 2013 Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards are intended to provide guidance to families, teachers, and administrators on what children should know and be able to do as they enter kindergarten."

Self-regulation: the ability to be aware of and in control of one's own behaviors to meet the needs of the situation at hand.

SLP (speech and language pathologist) – An SLP provides explicit instruction to students by supporting their academic achievement and prompting pragmatic skill developing for learning. Examples include articulation, language development, social pragmatic skills and many more.

Social thinking: a way of thinking about others in a scenario and what they may be feeling and experiencing.

SSI - Supplemental Security Income. It is a Federal income supplement program. It is designed to help aged, blind and disabled people who have little or no income. It provides cash to meet basic needs for food clothing and shelter.

STAR assessments – Is a computerized adaptive tool used with all students in the area of reading and math. This screening is often done three times per year in grades 2-11. STAR can be used as a screener, diagnostic and curriculum based measure that is aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). STAR assessments gather valid and reliable information in a relatively short amount of time.

TCRWP - Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (at Columbia University). The mission of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project is to help young people become avid and skilled readers, writers, and inquirers. They accomplish this goal through research, curriculum development, and through working shoulder-to-shoulder with students, teachers, and school leaders.

Zones of regulation: a method of assessing one's feeling and levels of alertness. There are four categories: red (intense, high alert feelings), yellow (heightened alert and emotions but under self-control), green (calm, happy, focused, content), and blue (low alertness and feelings like sad, tired, sick, and bored).

