

SPECIAL EDUCATION ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

Admission, Review, and Dismissal (**ARD**) Committee determines a student's eligibility to receive special education services and develops the individualized education program (IEP) of the student. This committee is composed of student's parent(s), and school personnel who are involved with the student.

Annual Review-a review of a student's special education program must occur at least once each year and includes an update of the student's progress, a review of the current IEP, and development of a new IEP for the upcoming year.

Extended School Year (**ESY**) Services-an individual instructional program for eligible students with disabilities that is provided beyond the regular school year. The need for ESY services must be determined on an individual basis by the ARD committee.

Free Appropriate Public Education(**FAPE**)-federal law mandates that students have the right to a free appropriate public education, including special education and related services. The public school provides these services at no cost to parents.

Individualized Education Program(**IEP**)-The ARD committee, of which parents are active members, develops the IEP. The IEP includes the student's present levels of performance, measurable annual goals, specific supports and modifications or accommodations, dates of service, and evaluation procedures.

Modification/Accommodations-Instructional supports determined by the ARD committee that will assist the student in mastering the goals of the IEP.

Referral-If a disability is suspected, the process of requesting that a student be evaluated for eligibility to receive special education and related services. Any concerned person may refer a student, including teachers, principals, parents, other agency personnel, or the student.

Special Education Process:

- 1. Referral**
- 2. Evaluation**
- 3. Eligibility determined**
- 4. IEP written**
- 5. Annual Review meeting**

For more information, please see "A Guide To the Admission, Review and Dismissal Process" by the Division of Special Education Texas Education Agency.

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