Common Acronyms to Know

ARD (Admission, Review, and Dismissal)
The Texas-specific term for an IEP meeting.

IEP (Individualized Education Program)
A legal document outlining a student's special education plan.

FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education)
The right of students with disabilities to receive appropriate education services.

LRE (Least Restrictive Environment)
The requirement that students with disabilities be educated with their non-disabled peers as much as possible.

PLAAFP (Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance)
A section of the IEP that describes a student's current skills and needs.

TEA (Texas Education Agency)
The state agency overseeing public education in Texas.

Common Acronyms to Know

IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) –
The federal law governing special education.

FIE (Full Individual Evaluation)
A comprehensive assessment used to determine special education eligibility.

RTI (Response to Intervention)
A tiered system of support to help students struggling academically or behaviorally before referring them for special education.

ESY (Extended School Year)
Special education services provided beyond the regular school year if needed.

Dys (Dyslexia Services)
Support services for students with dyslexia.

BIP (Behavior Intervention Plan)
A structured plan to address behavioral challenges.

Common Acronyms to Know

OT (Occupational Therapy)
Therapy that supports fine motor skills, sensory processing, and daily living tasks.

PT (Physical Therapy)
Therapy that supports gross motor skills and mobility.

SLP (Speech-Language Pathologist)
A professional who provides speech and language therapy.

VI (Visual Impairment Services)
Support for students with vision disabilities.

AI (Auditory Impairment Services)
Support for students with hearing impairments.

AT (Assistive Technology)
Tools and devices that help students access learning.

Gen Ed (General Education)
A classroom setting for students without disabilities.

SpEd (Special Education)
Services and supports for students with disabilities.

Common Acronyms to Know

FBA (Functional Behavior Assessment)
An evaluation to identify the cause of challenging behaviors.

BIP (Behavior Intervention Plan)
A structured plan to address behavior concerns.

PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) A proactive approach to improving student behavior.

IEP Transition Plan
A plan required by age 14 to prepare students for post-high school life.

CTE (Career and Technical Education)
Programs that prepare students for careers or vocational training.

18+ Program
Special education services available for eligible students beyond high school (ages 18-22).

ARD Dismissal
The process of exiting a student from special education services when they no longer qualify.