

Portland Public Schools Glossary of Acronyms

- ACCESS** (*Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State*) - an assessment that measures English language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing for students identified as limited English proficient.
- BASE** (*Benefit Association for School Employees*) – collective bargaining unit for maintenance, transportation, food services, computer technicians, accounting specialists, and secretaries.
- BHP** (*Behavioral Health Professional*) – specially trained staff focusing on support behavior skills for students with identified needs.
- CIP** (*Capital Improvement Plan*) – five year financing and construction/acquisition plan for public improvement projects including school facilities.
- CPAA** (*Children's Progress Academic Assessment*) – assessment to measure learning and progress for children in pre-kindergarten and early primary grades
- CTE** (*Career and Technical Education*) – schools that specialize in skilled trades, applied sciences, modern technologies, and career preparation such as PATHS.
- EL** (*Expeditionary Learning*) – a school model that uses project-based, interdisciplinary learning formed in partnership between Harvard Graduate School of Education and Outward Bound.
- ELA** (*English Language Arts*) – a core content area of education that includes skill development in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
- ELL** (*English Language Learner*) – any individual who is actively in the process of acquiring English and where primary language spoken at home is one other than English.
- ELO** (*Expanded Learning Opportunity*) – learning experiences that may occur outside of the school physical space, outside of the regular school day/year, and/or outside of the regular school program. Examples include – externships, summer course work, and early college/dual enrollment.
- ESEA** (*Elementary and Secondary Education Act*) – federal legislation that appropriate funds for primary and secondary education establishing rules for school access and spending of federal funds which emphasize equal access to education and establishes high standards and accountability.
- ESSA** (*Every Student Succeeds Act*) – federal legislation amending ESEA that establishes rules for states and schools to provide equal opportunity for education to all students. It was approved in 2015 to be fully enacted in school year 2017-2018, replacing NCLB.
- FLS** (*Functional Life Skills*) – learning environments and programs that support students with significant cognitive challenges to learn to become more independent and self-sufficient.
- IB** (*International Baccalaureate*) – a school model focused on delivering the intellectual, personal, emotional, and social skills needed in a rapidly globalizing world.
- IDEA** (*Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*) – federal legislation governing the services and learning environments schools must provide to students with special needs.
- JTG** (*John T. Gorman Foundation*) – a local foundation that has provided support to a number of district initiatives and therefore is often used as a title for the programs that were supported.
- Lau Plan** (*Named after Supreme Court Case Lau vs. Nichols*) – a school district plan to ensure equitable access to education for English language learners.

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LEP (*Limited English Proficiency*) – students who have little or no skill to communicate in English.

MEA (*Maine Education Assessment*) – annual assessments mandated by federal & state legislation and chosen by the Maine Department of Education.

MEA (*Maine Education Association*) – state teachers' association.

MLTI (*Maine Learning Technology Initiative*) – Maine Department of Education program focused on supporting 1:1 computer device programs.

NCLB (*No Child Left Behind*) – federal legislation amending ESEA that establishes rules for states and schools to provide equal opportunity for education to all students. It was enacted in 2001 and is being replaced with ESSA.

NEA (*National Education Association*) – national teachers' association.

NWEA (*North West Education Association*) – the developers of an assessment for student learning in math and English language arts, term used to identify and refer to those assessments.

PEA (*Portland Education Association*) – city teachers' association and bargaining unit.

PAA (*Portland Administrators Association*) – city administrators' bargaining unit.

PD (*Professional Development*) – courses, meetings, workshops or other training opportunities for school staff to learn and improve performance.

PBIS (*Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports*) – a set of ideas and tools that schools use to promote and maximize appropriate academic and social behavior of students.

PEVAL (*Principal Evaluation*) – the district's system of evaluations measuring principal performance and effectiveness.

PLBSS (*Professional Learning Based Salary Scale*) – the compensation scale used in the collective bargaining contract between PEA and PPS that awards salary increases for a variety of types of professional learning in addition to university course work.

PLP (*Personalized Learning Plan*) – short and long term goals and strategies for learning developed specifically for an individual student's needs and progress.

PPS (*Portland Public Schools*)

PSAT (*Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test*) – standardized used to help prepare students for taking the SAT.

RTI or RtI (*Response to Intervention*) – a system that defines early, systematic and appropriately intense assistance to children at risk for falling behind.

SAT (*Scholastic Aptitude Test*) – standardized test widely used for college admissions in the United States, currently used as the required MEA assessment for 3rd year high school students.

SIOP (*Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol*) – a method of organizing teaching that supports development of all students, particularly English Language Learners.

TEVAL (*Teacher Evaluation*) – the district's system of evaluations measuring teacher performance and effectiveness.