

CSC Developed: DPS and Education Acronym-Term Definition Table

- CSC developed this document from many on-line resources. If there is a Term or Acronym you need defined, or think we should add, please email it to SteeleCSC@gmail.com.

Acronym-Term	Definition
504 Plan	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act . A plan designed by the counselor and 504 Team to assist a non-SPED student in the school setting. This plan will incorporate accommodations and modifications that <i>must</i> be followed. It will be provided by the student's counselor.
A	
Academic Achievement Standards	Academic achievement standards refer to the expected performance of students on measures of academic achievement; for instance, "all students will score at least 76% correct on the district-developed performance-based assessment." Also known as performance standards. See also academic content standards.
Academic Content Standards	Academic content standards are developed by state departments of education to demonstrate what they expect all students to know and be able to do in the core content areas. According to NCLB, ELL students "will meet the same challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards as all children are expected to meet." See also academic achievement standards.
Academic English	The English language ability required for academic achievement in context-reduced situations, such as classroom lectures and textbook reading assignments. This is sometimes referred to as Cognitive/Academic Language Proficiency (CALP).
Accommodation (for English Language Learners)	Adapting language (spoken or written) to make it more understandable to second language learners. In assessment, accommodations may be made to the presentation, response method, setting, or timing/scheduling of the assessment (Baker, 2000; Rivera & Stansfield, 2000).
Accommodation (For Students With Disabilities)	Techniques and materials that allow individuals with LD to complete school or work tasks with greater ease and effectiveness. Examples include spellcheckers, tape recorders, and expanded time for completing assignments.
Accuracy	The ability to recognize words correctly.
ACT	American College Testing - The ACT is a standardized achievement examination for college admissions in the United States produced by ACT, Inc.
Acuity	This is a comprehensive online assessment system that provides a variety of assessment options for teachers and students. DPS high schools administer Acuity tests to ninth and tenth grade Language Arts and Math students in order to predict their performance on the upcoming CSAP exam.
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act - A federal law that gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder - Any of a range of behavioral disorders in children characterized by symptoms that include poor concentration, an inability to focus on tasks, difficulty in paying attention, and impulsivity. A person can be predominantly inattentive (often referred to as ADD), predominantly hyperactive-impulsive, or a combination of these two.
Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)	Public schools and school districts are required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act to increase test scores and graduation rates by a certain amount every year. When the requirements are met, the school or district is said to have "made AYP."

Acronym-Term	Definition
Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)	An individual state's measure of yearly progress toward achieving state academic standards. "Adequate Yearly Progress" is the minimum level of improvement that states, school districts and schools must achieve each year.
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder - Any of a range of behavioral disorders in children characterized by symptoms that include poor concentration, an inability to focus on tasks, difficulty in paying attention, and impulsivity. A person can be predominantly inattentive (often referred to as ADD), predominantly hyperactive-impulsive, or a combination of these two.
Affective Filter	The affective filter is a metaphor that describes a learner's attitudes that affect the relative success of second language acquisition. Negative feelings such as lack of motivation, lack of self-confidence and learning anxiety act as filters that hinder and obstruct language learning. This term is associated with linguist Stephen Krashen's Monitor Model of second language learning.
Affix	Part of word that is "fixed to" either the beginnings of words (prefixes) or the endings of words (suffixes). The word <i>disrespectful</i> has two affixes, a prefix (<i>dis-</i>) and a suffix (<i>-ful</i>).
Age Equivalent Score	In a norm-referenced assessment, individual student's scores are reported relative to those of the norming population. This can be done in a variety of ways, but one way is to report the average age of people who received the same score as the individual child. Thus, an individual child's score is described as being the same as students that are younger, the same age, or older than that student (e.g. a 9 year old student may receive the same score that an average 13 year old student does, suggesting that this student is quite advanced).
Alphabetic Principle	The basic idea that written language is a code in which letters represent the sounds in spoken words.
Alternative school	A school that has a different educational philosophy than traditional schools and often serves students who have not succeeded in a traditional classroom setting.
Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)	A federal law that gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.
AN	Affective Needs (Center Classroom)
Analogy-based Phonics	In this approach, students are taught to use parts of words they have already learned to read and decode words they don't know. They apply this strategy when the words share similar parts in their spellings, for example, reading <i>screen</i> by analogy to <i>green</i> . Students may be taught a large set of key words for use in reading new words.
Analytic Phonics	In this approach, students learn to analyze letter-sound relationships in previously learned words. They do not pronounce sounds in isolation.
Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO)	Within Title III of NCLB, each state is required to determine Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs). AMAOs indicate how much English language proficiency (reading, writing, speaking, listening, and comprehension) children served with Title III funds are expected to gain each year. See also AYP, for similar content area requirements

Acronym-Term	Definition
AP	Advanced Placement
AP	Advanced Placement Class <i>OR</i> Assistant Principal.
APE	Adapted Physical Education
Aphasia	see Developmental Aphasia
AR	Association Representative for DCTA.
ASL	American Sign Language
Assessment	Assessment is a broad term used to describe the gathering of information about student performance in a particular area. See also formative assessment and summative assessment.
Assistive Technology	Equipment that enhances the ability of students and employees to be more efficient and successful. For more information, go to "LD Topics: Technology."
AT	Assistive Technology
At-risk	A term used to describe students whose actions or circumstances have put them at risk of not doing well in school. At-risk students are more likely not to graduate from high school. Circumstances include poverty, homelessness, parental abuse or neglect, parents who never completed high school, drug or alcohol abuse in the family, or living in a home where English is not the primary language.
Attendance area / Attendance zone	The area surrounding a neighborhood public school. The school district assigns students living within the attendance area to a school. Elementary, middle, and high schools have their own attendance area. Sometimes a school is too crowded and students living in the neighborhood cannot attend their neighborhood school. In Colorado, students are not required to attend their neighborhood school.
Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	Any of a range of behavioral disorders in children characterized by symptoms that include poor concentration, an inability to focus on tasks, difficulty in paying attention, and impulsivity. A person can be predominantly inattentive (often referred to as ADD), predominantly hyperactive-impulsive, or a combination of these two.
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)	see ADHD
Auditory Discrimination	Ability to detect differences in sounds; may be gross ability, such as detecting the differences between the noises made by a cat and dog, or fine ability, such as detecting the differences made by the sounds of letters "m" and "n."
Auditory Figure-ground	Ability to attend to one sound against a background of sound (e.g., hearing the teacher's voice against classroom noise).
Auditory Memory	Ability to retain information which has been presented orally; may be short term memory, such as recalling information presented several seconds before; long term memory, such as recalling information presented more than a minute before; or sequential memory, such as recalling a series of information in proper order.
Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)	An inability to accurately process and interpret sound information. Students with APD often do not recognize subtle differences between sounds in words.

Acronym-Term	Definition
AUT	Autism
Authentic Assessment	Authentic assessment uses multiple forms of evaluation that reflect student learning, achievement, motivation, and attitudes on classroom activities. Examples of authentic assessment include performance assessment, portfolios, and student self-assessment.
Automaticity	Automaticity is a general term that refers to any skilled and complex behavior that can be performed rather easily with little attention, effort, or conscious awareness. These skills become automatic after extended periods of training. With practice and good instruction, students become automatic at word recognition, that is, retrieving words from memory, and are able to focus attention on constructing meaning from the text, rather than decoding. Words from which many other words are formed. For example, many words can be formed from the base word <i>migrate</i> : <i>migration</i> , <i>migrant</i> , <i>immigration</i> , <i>immigrant</i> , <i>migrating</i> , <i>migratory</i> .
AYP	Adequate Yearly Progress
AYP	Annual Yearly Progress based upon the No Child Left Behind initiative. AYP is how the federal law measures the achievement of schools, districts, and states. The ultimate goal of AYP is to have all students proficient in reading and math by the year 2014.
B	
Back-to-basics	An educational philosophy that places primary emphasis on teaching the basic skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic in the early grades. Back-to-basics can also be called "fundamental" education.
Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS)	Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) is often referred to as "playground English" or "survival English." It is the basic language ability required for face-to-face communication where linguistic interactions are embedded in a situational context called context-embedded language. BICS is part of a theory of language proficiency developed by Jim Cummins, which distinguishes this conversational form of language from CALP (Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency).
Behavior Intervention Plan	BIP - A plan that includes positive strategies, program modifications, and supplementary aids and supports that address a student's disruptive behaviors and allows the child to be educated in the least restrictive environment (LRE).
Behavior Plan	This is a written plan to correct inappropriate behavior by SPED students. It MUST be followed. It will be provided to you by the SPED teacher of record.
Bicultural	Identifying with the cultures of two different ethnic, national, or language groups. To be bicultural is not necessarily the same as being bilingual. In fact, you can even identify with two different language groups without being bilingual, as is the case with many Latinos in the U.S.
Bilingual education	This term generally refers to a program designed to help English language learners gradually learn English. Students learn new information in their native language. The information then is reviewed in both the native and second language. Some schools also refer to bilingual education as part of a dual-language program that seeks to produce students who can read, write, and speak in both languages.
Bilingual Education	An educational program in which two languages are used to provide content matter instruction. Bilingual education programs vary in their length of time, and in the amount each language is used.

Acronym-Term	Definition
Bilingual Education, Transitional	An educational program in which two languages are used to provide content matter instruction. Over time, the use of the native language is decreased and the use of English is increased until only English is used.
Bilingualism	Bilingualism is the ability to use two languages. However, defining bilingualism can be problematic since there may be variation in proficiency across the four language dimensions (listening, speaking, reading and writing) and differences in proficiency between the two languages. People may become bilingual either by acquiring two languages at the same time in childhood or by learning a second language sometime after acquiring their first language.
Biliteracy	Biliteracy is the ability to effectively communicate or understand written thoughts and ideas through the grammatical systems, vocabularies, and written symbols of two different languages.
BIP	Behavior Intervention Plan - A plan that includes positive strategies, program modifications, and supplementary aids and supports that address a student's disruptive behaviors and allows the child to be educated in the least restrictive environment (LRE).
Block scheduling	A daily schedule where each class period lasts longer than traditional school class periods. Students often take a different set of courses on alternate days.
Board of Education	An elected group of five or seven people who oversee the administration of a school district. Colorado has 178 school districts. Each district selects its own curricula.
BOE	Body of Evidence
BPAC	Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee. If more than 10% of a school's students are English Language Learners, federal law mandates that parents have a forum and can be active participants in their child's schools.
British Primary School	British Primary schools feature multi-grade classrooms where students usually stay with the same teacher for several years to maintain a continuous relationship. The schools place great emphasis on respect for each individual student. The curriculum emphasizes learning through experience and integration of subject areas under broad themes and group projects. Teachers encourage and help students to make many decisions and choices about their education. Parent involvement is expected and welcomed.
BSC	Balanced Score Card
C	
California English Language Development Test	CELDT is a language proficiency test developed for the California Department of Education. Progress on language proficiency assessments like the CELDT is a requirement for ELLs under the No Child Left Behind Act .
CALP	Cognitive/Academic Language Proficiency (CALP) is the language ability required for academic achievement in a context-reduced environment. Examples of context-reduced environments include classroom lectures and textbook reading assignments, where there are few environmental cues (facial expressions, gestures) that help students understand the content. CALP is part of a theory of language developed by Jim Cummins, and is distinguished from Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS).
CBLA	Colorado Basic Literacy Act
CD	Cognitive Delay

Acronym-Term	Definition
CDE	Colorado Department of Education
CDM Commission	Collaborative Decision Making Commission - The Board of Education and the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA) jointly announced the membership of the CDM Commission, a group that will recommend changes to the District's approach to site-based management.
CELA	Colorado English Language Assessment
CELDT	California English Language Development Test - CELDT is a language proficiency test developed for the California Department of Education. Progress on language proficiency assessments like the CELDT is a requirement for ELLs under the No Child Left Behind Act .
Center For Applied Linguistics (CAL)	CAL is a private, non-profit organization consisting of a group of scholars and educators who use the findings of linguistics to identify and address language-related problems. CAL carries out a wide range of activities including research, teacher education, analysis and dissemination of information, design and development of instructional materials, technical assistance, conference planning, program evaluation, and policy analysis. Visit the CAL website.
Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD)	A disorder that occurs when the ear and the brain do not coordinate fully. A CAPD is a physical hearing impairment, but one which does not show up as a hearing loss on routine screenings or an audiogram. Instead, it affects the hearing system beyond the ear, whose job it is to separate a meaningful message from non-essential background sound and deliver that information with good clarity to the intellectual centers of the brain (the central nervous system).
Character education	A school program or philosophy that teaches good morals and values.
Charter school	A tuition-free independent public school. Charter schools are usually founded by parents, teachers, or community members. Charter schools provide a different kind of education than traditional public schools. In order to open, the schools are approved by either the local school district or the Charter School Institute. Currently, there are 140 Colorado charter schools serving about 50,000 students.
Charter School Institute	A state government organization that approves and provides accountability to charter schools.
CIMP	Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process
Classical education	A program based on the ancient Greek and Roman model of education. The purpose of the program is to increase knowledge through teaching facts and helping students make logical arguments. Classical education also seeks to promote moral virtue and responsible citizenship. A classical education includes reading many "great books" of history and literature.
Cloze Passage	A cloze passage is a reading comprehension exercise in which words have been omitted in a systematic fashion. Students fill in the blanks, and their responses are counted correct if they are exact matches for the missing words. Cloze exercises assess comprehension and background knowledge, and they are also excellent indicators of whether the reading level and language level of the text are appropriate for a given student.
CMP	Connected Mathematics Program

Acronym-Term	Definition
CoAlt	Colorado Alternate Assessments (CoAlt) is administered to students with significant cognitive disabilities who are instructed and assessed on alternate achievement standards.
CogAT	Cognitive Abilities Test
Cognates	Words in different languages related to the same root, e.g. <i>education</i> (English) and <i>educación</i> (Spanish).
Cognitive/Academic Language Proficiency	Cognitive/Academic Language Proficiency (CALP) is the language ability required for academic achievement in a context-reduced environment. Examples of context-reduced environments include classroom lectures and textbook reading assignments, where there are few environmental cues (facial expressions, gestures) that help students understand the content. CALP is part of a theory of language developed by Jim Cummins, and is distinguished from Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS).
Collaborative Decision Making Commission	CDM Commission - The Board of Education and the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA) jointly announced the membership of the CDM Commission, a group that will recommend changes to the District's approach to site-based management.
Collaborative School Enhancement Committee	CSCE - Original name in 2003 for CSC or Collaborative School Committee
Collaborative Writing	Collaborative writing is an instructional approach in which students work together to plan, draft, revise, and edit compositions.
College preparatory ("college prep") school	A school with the primary mission of preparing students for college-level academic work.
Colorado Alternate Assessments	CoAlt is administered to students with significant cognitive disabilities who are instructed and assessed on alternate achievement standards
Colorado Student Assessment Program	CSAP - A series of tests taken by public school students in 3rd to 10th grade in the areas of reading, writing, math, and science.
Comprehension Strategies	Techniques to teach reading comprehension, including summarization, prediction, and inferring word meanings from context.
Comprehension Strategy Instruction	The explicit teaching of techniques that are particularly effective for comprehending text. The steps of explicit instruction include direct explanation, teacher modeling ("think aloud"), guided practice, and application. Some strategies include <i>direct explanation</i> (the teacher explains to students why the strategy helps comprehension and when to apply the strategy), <i>modeling</i> (the teacher models, or demonstrates, how to apply the strategy, usually by "thinking aloud" while reading the text that the students are using), <i>guided practice</i> (the teacher guides and assists students as they learn how and when to apply the strategy) and <i>application</i> (the teacher helps students practice the strategy until they can apply it independently).
Connected Instruction	A way of teaching systematically in which the teacher continually shows and discusses with the students the relationship between what has been learned, what is being learned, and what will be learned.
Content Area	Content areas are academic subjects like math, science, English/language arts, reading, and social sciences. Language proficiency may affect these areas, but is not included as a content area. Assessments of language proficiency differ from those of language arts.

Acronym-Term	Definition
Context Clues	Sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words. Context clues may be drawn from the immediate sentence containing the word, from text already read, from pictures accompanying the text, or from definitions, restatements, examples, or descriptions in the text.
Context-embedded Language	Context-embedded language refers to communication that occurs in a context of shared understanding, where there are cues or signals that help to reveal the meaning (e.g. visual clues, gestures, expressions, specific location).
Context-reduced Language	Context-reduced language refers to communication where there are few clues about the meaning of the communication apart from the words themselves. The language is likely to be abstract and academic. Examples: textbook reading, classroom lecture.
Continuous Assessment	An element of responsive instruction in which the teacher regularly monitors student performance to determine how closely it matches the instructional goal.
Contract school	A tuition-free independent school that is not operated by the school district. The school's operator signs a contract with the local Board of Education to provide an educational program. Contract schools are not under charter school law.
Cooperative Learning	A teaching model involving students working together as partners or in small groups on clearly defined tasks. It has been used successfully to teach comprehension strategies in content-area subjects.
Core Knowledge	An educational curriculum that provides a solid, sequential, and specific grade-by-grade core of common knowledge with the goal of developing cultural literacy, greater fairness, and higher literacy in the early grades. Some schools only use parts of the curriculum and are not considered "official" Core Knowledge schools like those that use the entire curriculum.
CPE	Comprehensive Professional Evaluation. The component of ProComp that rewards teachers who receive performance ratings of <i>satisfactory</i> .
Criterion-referenced Test	Criterion-referenced tests are designed to determine whether students have mastered specific content, and allow comparisons with other students taking the same assessment. They are nationally and locally available.
CSAP	Colorado Student Assessment Program - A series of tests taken by public school students in 3rd to 10th grade in the areas of reading, writing, math, and science.
CSAP Incentives	The element of ProComp that rewards teachers who exceed a range of expected performance based on CSAP scores. Teachers who exceed CSAP Expectations, work in Top Performing Schools or work in High Growth Schools earn non-base building incentives (bonuses).
CSAP-A	Colorado Student Assessment Program - Alternate
CSC	Collaborative School Committee. The CSC is the decision making body for the school. Each school's CSC is comprised of the principal, 4 teachers, 4 parents, a non-teaching staff person, and 1 community representative.
CSEC	Collaborative School Enhancement Committee - Original name in 2003 for CSC or Collaborative School Committee
CT	Cooperating Teacher. This teacher hosts a teacher candidate (student teacher).
CTE	Career and Technology Education. See Ms. Avila for more information.
Curriculum-based Assessment	A type of informal assessment in which the procedures directly assess student performance in learning-targeted content in order to make decisions about how to better address a student's instructional needs.

Acronym-Term	Definition
Cyberschool	see Online learning school / Online learning program
D	
D/HH	Deaf/Hard of Hearing (Department)
DAC	District Assessment Coordinator
DAG	District Assessment Guide
DB	Deaf-Blindness
DCTA	The Denver Classroom Teachers Association. This is a professional organization of recognized leaders representing educators, including classroom teachers and specialized service providers.
Decoding	The ability to translate a word from print to speech, usually by employing knowledge of sound-symbol correspondences. It is also the act of deciphering a new word by sounding it out.
Department of Technology Services.	DoTS - This service maintains the district network and technology.
Developmental Aphasia	A severe language disorder that is presumed to be due to brain injury rather than because of a developmental delay in the normal acquisition of language.
Developmental Spelling	The use of letter-sound relationship information to attempt to write words (also called <i>invented spelling</i>)
Dialogue Journal	A type of writing in which students make entries in a notebook on topics of their choice, to which the teacher responds, modeling effective language but not overtly correcting the student's language (O'Malley & Valdez-Pierce, 1996, p.238).
Differentiated Instruction	An approach to teaching that includes planning out and executing various approaches to content, process, and product. Differentiated instruction is used to meet the needs of student differences in readiness, interests, and learning needs.
Direct Instruction	An instructional approach to academic subjects that emphasizes the use of carefully sequenced steps that include demonstration, modeling, guided practice, and independent application.
Direct Vocabulary Learning	Explicit instruction in both the meanings of individual words and word-learning strategies. Direct vocabulary instruction aids reading comprehension.
DLC	Developmental Learning Center (Center Program for Kindergarten)
Dominant Language	The dominant language is the language with which a bilingual or multilingual speaker has greatest proficiency and/or uses more often. See primary language.
DoTS	Department of Technology Services. This service maintains the district network and technology.
DPS	Denver Public Schools.
DRA	Developmental Reading Assessment

Acronym-Term	Definition
DRA-2	Developmental Reading Assessment - 2 nd Version
DRA2+	Software Platform for DRA2 & EDL2
Dual Language Program/Dual Immersion	Also known as two-way immersion or two-way bilingual education, these programs are designed to serve both language minority and language majority students concurrently. Two language groups are put together and instruction is delivered through both languages. For example, in the U.S., native English-speakers might learn Spanish as a foreign language while continuing to develop their English literacy skills and Spanish-speaking ELLs learn English while developing literacy in Spanish. The goals of the program are for both groups to become biliterate, succeed academically, and develop cross-cultural understanding. See the ERIC Two-way Online Resource Guide or the NCELA publication, Biliteracy for a Global Society.
Dual-language school	A school with the goal of teaching students to read, write, and speak in two languages. The schools usually serve about 50 percent native English speakers and 50 percent students of another native language. Students are taught in both English and the non-English second language.
Dyscalculia	A severe difficulty in understanding and using symbols or functions needed for success in mathematics.
Dysgraphia	A severe difficulty in producing handwriting that is legible and written at an age-appropriate speed.
Dyslexia	A language-based disability that affects both oral and written language. It may also be referred to as reading disability, reading difference, or reading disorder.
Dysnomia	A marked difficulty in remembering names or recalling words needed for oral or written language.
Dyspraxia	A severe difficulty in performing drawing, writing, buttoning, and other tasks requiring fine motor skill, or in sequencing the necessary movements.
E	
Early Childhood English Language Learner (ECELL)	An ECELL is a child who is between the ages of zero and five (early stages of development) and who is in the process of learning English as a second language.
Early College	A high school that requires students to earn an associate's degree or at least sixty credits toward a post-secondary degree in order to graduate.
ED	Emotional Disability
Editing*	A part of writing and preparing presentations concerned chiefly with improving the clarity, organization, concision, and correctness of expression relative to task, purpose, and audience; compared to revising, a smaller-scale activity often associated with surface aspects of a text; see also revising, rewriting.
EDL	Evaluación del Desarrollo de la Lectura (Spanish version of the DRA)
EDR	Expedited Diagnostic School Review. This is an overall assessment of a school's instructional program. This is completed by the Colorado Department of Education.

Acronym-Term	Definition
EI	Early Intervention (you may also see EI referred to as "Entitled Individual")
ELA	English Language Acquisition—classes for English Language Learners (ELLs).
ELC	Early Learning Center (Center Program for Preschool)
ELD	English language development (ELD) means instruction designed specifically for English language learners to develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English. This type of instruction is also known as "English as a second language" (ESL), "teaching English to speakers of other languages" (TESOL), or "English for speakers of other languages" (ESOL). ELD, ESL, TESOL or ESOL are versions of English language arts standards that have been crafted to address the specific developmental stages of students learning English.
ELL	English Language Learner - Students whose first language is not English and who are in the process of learning English.
ELPS	English Language Proficiency Act
EM	Everyday Mathematics Program
Embedded Phonics	In this approach, students learn vocabulary through explicit instruction on the letter-sound relationships during the reading of connected text, usually when the teacher notices that a student is struggling to read a particular word. Letter-sound relationships are taught as part of sight word reading. If the sequence of letter-sounds is not prescribed and sequenced, but is determined by whatever words are encountered in text, then the program is not systematic or explicit.
Emergent Literacy	The view that literacy learning begins at birth and is encouraged through participation with adults in meaningful reading and writing activities.
Emergent Reader Texts	Texts consisting of short sentences comprised of learned sight words and CVC words; may also include rebuses to represent words that cannot yet be decoded or recognized; see also rebus.
English As A Second Language	English as a Second Language (ESL) is an educational approach in which English language learners are instructed in the use of the English language. Their instruction is based on a special curriculum that typically involves little or no use of the native language, focuses on language (as opposed to content) and is usually taught during specific school periods. For the rest of the school day, students may be placed in mainstream classrooms, an immersion program, or a bilingual education program. Every bilingual education program has an ESL component (U.S. General Accounting Office, 1994). See also ELD, pull-out ESL, ESOL.
English immersion	see Structured English immersion
English Language Learner	ELL - B147Students whose first language is not English and who are in the process of learning English.
English language learners (ELL)	This term refers to students whose first language is not English. Schools use different programs to teach ELL students.
Entry Criteria	Entry criteria are a set of guidelines that designate students as English language learners and help place them appropriately in bilingual education, ESL, or other language support services. Criteria usually include a home language survey and performance on an English language proficiency test.

Acronym-Term	Definition
Environmental Focus	Schools with an environmental focus integrate instruction about the environment and natural sciences into other subject areas. Such schools often emphasize service learning projects and outdoor education to help students learn how their actions impact the local environment and the world.
EOC	End of Course Assessment
ESL	See English As A Second Language
ESOL	ESOL stands for 'English for speakers of other languages' (see ESL).
ESY	Extended School Year
Exceeds CSAP Expectations	This element rewards ProComp teachers whose students' growth exceed the expected norms on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP). Because the element is based on growth from the previous year, it is available only to teachers in 4th through 10th grades in math and language arts.
Exceptional Students Education (ESE)	Refers to special education services to students who qualify.
Executive Function	The ability to organize cognitive processes. This includes the ability to plan ahead, prioritize, stop and start activities, shift from one activity to another activity, and to monitor one's own behavior.
Exit Criteria	Exit criteria are a set of guidelines for ending special services for English language learners and placing them in mainstream, English-only classes as fluent English speakers. This is usually based on a combination of performance on an English language proficiency test, grades, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendations. In some cases, this redesignation of students may be based on the amount of time they have been in special programs.
Expeditionary Learning Schools	A type of school where students learn academic subjects through real-world projects, also known as expeditions. Expeditions may involve long-term investigation of important questions and subjects that include individual and group projects, field studies, and performances and presentations of student work. Expeditionary learning also emphasizes community service and "active teaching," where students and teachers discuss the concepts they are learning about.
Experiential education / Experiential learning	A way of teaching that primarily uses experiences such as projects, field trips, discovery, and experimentation to help students learn.
Experimental Writing	Efforts by young children to experiment with writing by creating pretend and real letters and by organizing scribbles and marks on paper.
Expressive Language	The aspect of spoken language that includes speaking and the aspect of written language that includes composing or writing.
Expulsion	Removal from DPS schools.
F	
Family Educational Right To Privacy Act	FERPA - A federal law that protects the privacy of student education records.
FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education - A requirement of IDEA; all disabled children must receive special education services and related services at no cost.

Acronym-Term	Definition
FBA	Functional Behavior Assessment
FEP	Fluent English Proficient
FERPA	Family Educational Right To Privacy Act - A federal law that protects the privacy of student education records.
Fluency	The ability to read a text accurately, quickly, and with proper expression and comprehension. Because fluent readers do not have to concentrate on decoding words, they can focus their attention on what the text means.
Focus school	A term some school districts use to describe a type of option school. A focus school is a program that uses the district curriculum but offers a unique theme (such as a focus on science or the arts) or philosophy (such as Montessori). A focus school may be a program within a neighborhood school or a school of its own where all students open enroll.
Formal Assessment	The process of gathering information using standardized, published tests or instruments in conjunction with specific administration and interpretation procedures, and used to make general instructional decisions.
Formal English	See Standard English.
Formative Assessment	Formative assessments are designed to evaluate students on a frequent basis so that adjustments can be made in instruction to help them reach target achievement goals.
Free Appropriate Public Education	FAPE - A requirement of IDEA; all disabled children must receive special education services and related services at no cost.
FRL	Free and Reduced Lunch
Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA)	A problem-solving process for addressing student problem behavior that uses techniques to identify what triggers a given behavior(s) and to select interventions that directly address them.
Fundamental education	see Back-to-basics
G	
GED	Graduation Equivalency Diploma
General Academic Words And Phrases	Vocabulary common to written texts but not commonly a part of speech; in the Standards, general academic words and phrases are analogous to Tier Two words and phrases.
Gifted and talented	GT/HGT - The term used to describe students with exceptional or advanced academic abilities and potential for accomplishment.
Grade Equivalent Scores	In a norm-referenced assessment, individual student's scores are reported relative to those of the norming population. This can be done in a variety of ways, but one way is to report the average grade of students who received the same score as the individual child. Thus, an individual child's score is described as being the same as students that are in higher, the same, or lower grades than that student (e.g. a student in 2nd grade may earn the same score that an average fourth grade student does, suggesting that this student is quite advanced).
Graphic Organizers	Text, diagram or other pictorial device that summarizes and illustrates interrelationships among concepts in a text. Graphic organizers are often known as maps, webs, graphs, charts, frames, or clusters.
GT	Gifted and Talented (also known as GTE—Gifted & Talented Education) - The term used to describe students with exceptional or advanced academic abilities and potential for accomplishment.
H	

Acronym-Term	Definition
HACH	High Achieving Program
Hard-to-Serve Schools	Educators who work in a hard-to-serve school will receive a market incentive bonus every year the school is eligible. DPS and DCTA will annually review the list of hard to serve schools.
Hard-to-Staff Assignments	Teacher assignments where the supply of licensed professionals is low and the rate of turnover among licensed professionals is high. Examples of hard-to-staff assignments are ELA-S and special education center assignments. Teachers who work in hard-to-staff assignments will receive a bonus.
HD	Hearing Disability
HGT	Highly Gifted and Talented Program - The term used to describe students with exceptional or advanced academic abilities and potential for accomplishment.
High Growth Schools	Schools earning a high percentage of the possible points on the Growth Indicator of the DPS School Performance Framework (SPF). The "Growth Indicator" section of the SPF stoplight scorecard is section "1. Student Progress Over Time - Growth".
HLQ	Home Language Questionnaire
Homeschool	Colorado homeschool law allows parents or guardians to teach their children at home without a teaching license. Parents or guardians are responsible for purchasing books, supplies, and tests, and must notify the local school district of their intent to homeschool. Click here to learn more about homeschooling in Colorado.
I	
IB	International Baccalaureate Program - Designed to be a challenging educational program for students ages 3 to 19 (Primary Years, ages 3-12; Middle Years, ages 11-16; Diploma Programme, ages 16-19). IB aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. Schools that implement IB may continue to use the local school district curriculum but teach subjects according to IB objectives and methods.
IC	Infinite Campus. Program used for attendance, behavior reports, student information and grade book.
IComm	Intensive Communication (Center Classroom)
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IDEIA	Individuals with Disabilities Educational Improvement Act
IDS	Intensive Day School (Center Classroom)
IEE	Independent Educational Evaluation - An evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner, who is not employed by the school district at the public's expense.
IEP	Individualized Educational Plan - A plan outlining special education and related services specifically designed to meet the unique educational needs of a student with a disability.
IFSP	Individual Family Service Plan

Acronym-Term	Definition
IHCP	Individual Health Care Plan
ILP	Individual Literacy Plan
IMP	Interactive Mathematics Program
Independent Educational Evaluation	IEE - An evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner, who is not employed by the school district at the public's expense.
Independent school	1. A private school. 2. A public charter or contract school.
Independent School District (ISD)	ISD is a commonly-used acronym in education plans to refer to the school system the child attends.
Independent(ly)	A student performance done without scaffolding from a teacher, other adult, or peer; in the Standards, often paired with proficient(ly) to suggest a successful student performance done without scaffolding; in the Reading standards, the act of reading a text without scaffolding, as in an assessment; see also proficient(ly), scaffolding.
Indirect Vocabulary Learning	Vocabulary learning that occurs when students hear or see words used in many different contexts — for example, through conversations with adults, being read to, and reading extensively on their own.
Individualized Education Program (IEP)	A plan outlining special education and related services specifically designed to meet the unique educational needs of a student with a disability.
Individualized Transition Plan (ITP)	A plan developed by the IEP team to help accomplish the student's goals for the transition from high school into adulthood.
Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is the law that guarantees all children with disabilities access to a free and appropriate public education. For more information, go to IDEA 2004.
Informal Assessment	The process of collecting information to make specific instructional decisions, using procedures largely designed by teachers and based on the current instructional situation.
Information Gap	Information gap' is an oral language activity in which a student is rated on his or her success in verbally describing visual information that is hidden from a partner, such as a picture, map, or object (O'Malley & Valdez-Pierce, 1996).
Innovation School:	The Colorado Innovation Schools Act of 2008 (Senate Bill 08-130) provides for a school (or group of schools) to request certain waivers from state law and / or collective bargaining agreements. Depending on the type of waivers requested and received, the school may have greater autonomy and flexibility in academic and operational decision-making, such as hiring and firing, professional development, budget, calendar, and curriculum decisions. The school must submit an innovation plan to its school district board of education for approval. The innovation plan outlines the changes the school plans to implement in order to improve student outcomes. If approved, the school district board of education must submit the innovation plans and waiver requests to the Colorado State Board of Education for ratification. A school whose innovation plan has been ratified is known as an "Innovation School." A group of schools that jointly submit an innovation plan that is approved are considered an "Innovation School Zone".

Acronym-Term	Definition
Instructional Conversations	Discussion-based lessons geared toward creating opportunities for students' conceptual and linguistic development. They focus on an idea or a student. The teacher encourages expression of students' own ideas, builds upon information students provide and experiences they have had, and guides students to increasingly sophisticated levels of understanding (Goldenberg, 1991).
Integrated Learning	Integrated learning focuses on teaching traditional subjects (math, science, social studies, etc.,) through broad themes explored in projects and learning centers. This method of learning is designed to help students relate learning to their own experiences in order to understand how the curriculum is relevant to their lives.
Intelligence Quotient (IQ)	A measure of someone's intelligence as indicated by an intelligence test, where an average score is 100. An IQ score is the ratio of a person's mental age to his chronological age multiplied by 100.
Interim Assessments	The primary purpose of the district interim assessments is to measure students' achievement of standards and inform instruction by sampling important learning goals throughout a grade level; measuring content in alignment with district pacing and planning; and limiting the scoring requirements to the extent possible.
International Baccalaureate (IB)	The International Baccalaureate (IB) is designed to be a challenging educational program for students ages 3 to 19 (Primary Years, ages 3-12; Middle Years, ages 11-16; Diploma Programme, ages 16-19). IB aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. Schools that implement IB may continue to use the local school district curriculum but teach subjects according to IB objectives and methods.
IO	Instrumento de Observación
ISA	Instructional Services Advisory
ISIR	In School Intervention. In lieu of suspension, students may be assigned In School Intervention. This assignment is in a private room, and the student is provided with schoolwork for as many days as determined by the student advisor.
ITBS	Iowa Tests of Basic Skills
ITED	Iowa Tests of Educational Development
J	
K	
L	
Language Learning Disability (LLD)	A language learning disability is a disorder that may affect the comprehension and use of spoken or written language as well as nonverbal language, such as eye contact and tone of speech, in both adults and children.
Language Majority	Language majority refers to a person or language community that is associated with the dominant language of the country.
Language Minority (LM)	Language minority refers to a person from a home where a language other than the dominant, or societal, language is spoken. So, that person may (1) be fully bilingual, (2) speak only the home language, (3) speak only English, or (4) speak mostly the home language but have limited English proficiency.
Language Proficiency	To be proficient in a second language means to effectively communicate or understand thoughts or ideas through the language's grammatical system and its vocabulary, using its sounds or written symbols. Language proficiency is composed of oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) components as well as academic and non-academic language (Hargett, 1998).

Acronym-Term	Definition
LCR	Long Constructed Response.
LD	LD Learning Disability (Please note that this term has been replaced with SLD)
LEA	Local Education Agency
Learning Disability (LD)	A disorder that affects people's ability to either interpret what they see and hear or to link information from different parts of the brain. It may also be referred to as a learning disorder or a learning difference.
Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)	A learning plan that provides the most possible time in the regular classroom setting.
LEP	Limited English Proficient
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
LEP	Limited English Proficient - Is the term used by the federal government, most states, and local school districts to identify those students who have insufficient English to succeed in English-only classrooms. Increasingly, English language learner (ELL) or English learner (EL) are used in place of LEP.
Liberal arts education	A school program that includes extensive coursework in all core academic subject areas. There is a focus on broad knowledge, thinking, and analytical skills.
Limited English Proficient (LEP)	Limited English proficient is the term used by the federal government, most states, and local school districts to identify those students who have insufficient English to succeed in English-only classrooms. Increasingly, English language learner (ELL) or English learner (EL) are used in place of LEP.
Linguistically And Culturally Diverse (LCD)	The term 'linguistically and culturally diverse' is commonly used to identify communities where English is not the primary language of communication, although some individuals within the community may be bilingual or monolingual English speakers.
Listening Comprehension	Understanding speech. Listening comprehension, as with reading comprehension, can be described in "levels" – lower levels of listening comprehension would include understanding only the facts explicitly stated in a spoken passage that has very simple syntax and uncomplicated vocabulary. Advanced levels of listening comprehension would include implicit understanding and drawing inferences from spoken passages that feature more complicated syntax and more advanced vocabulary.
Literacy	Reading, writing, and the creative and analytical acts involved in producing and comprehending texts.
Literacy Coach	A reading coach or a literacy coach is a reading specialist who focuses on providing professional development for teachers by providing them with the additional support needed to implement various instructional programs and practices. They provide essential leadership for the school's entire literacy program by helping create and supervise a long-term staff development process that supports both the development and implementation of the literacy program over months and years.
LLD	Language Learning Disability - A language learning disability is a disorder that may affect the comprehension and use of spoken or written language as well as nonverbal language, such as eye contact and tone of speech, in both adults and children.

Acronym-Term	Definition
LM	Language Minority - Language minority refers to a person from a home where a language other than the dominant, or societal, language is spoken. So, that person may (1) be fully bilingual, (2) speak only the home language, (3) speak only English, or (4) speak mostly the home language but have limited English proficiency.
Local Education Agency (LEA)	A public board of education or other public authority within a state that maintains administrative control of public elementary or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district or other political subdivision of a state.
Looping	A system where a class of students stays with the same teacher for two or more years. The goal is to provide a sense of community and stability for the students and to help the teachers have a better understanding of the students' educational development.
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment - A learning plan that provides the most possible time in the regular classroom setting.
M	
Magnet school	A type of option school. A magnet school is focused on a specific subject or theme. These schools are designed to attract students from different ethnic, racial, social, and economic backgrounds.
Mainstream	"Mainstream" is a term that refers to the ordinary classroom that almost all children attend. Accommodations may be made for children with disabilities or who are English language learners, as part of the general educational program.
Master Agreement	The contract between DPS and DCTA that establishes all terms and conditions of employment for all members of the DCTA Bargaining Unit. The ProComp Agreement establishes a compensation system, but does not waive any of the other terms and conditions of employment established in the Master Agreement.
MD	Multiple Disabilities
Metacognition	Metacognition is the process of "thinking about thinking." For example, good readers use metacognition before reading when they clarify their purpose for reading and preview the text.
MI	Multi-Intensive (Center Classroom)
MI: Autism	Multi-Intensive: Autism (Center Classroom)
MI: S	Multi-Intensive: Severe (Center Classroom)
Monitor Model	In the monitor model, linguist Stephen Krashen proposes that language learning is accomplished either through learning (formal, conscious learning about language) or through acquisition (informal, subconscious learning through experience with language). He suggests that there is an internal "monitor," which is developed through formal learning which is a part of the conscious process of error correction in when speaking a new language. The monitor plays only a minor role in developing fluency, compared to the role of acquisition. This model later became part of Krashen and Terrell's Natural Approach to language teaching (Krashen & Terrell, 1983).

Acronym-Term	Definition
Monitoring Comprehension	Readers who monitor their comprehension know when they understand what they read and when they do not. Students are able to use appropriate "fix-up" strategies to resolve problems in comprehension.
Montessori	An educational philosophy and method of learning through hands-on activities. Montessori offers a student-centered environment where teachers introduce new ideas as they see that the students are ready. Most Montessori programs begin in preschool and go through sixth grade, but there are also a few Montessori middle and high schools.
Morpheme	The smallest meaningful unit of language. A morpheme can be one syllable (<i>book</i>) or more than one syllable (<i>seventeen</i>). It can be a whole word or a part of a word such as a prefix or suffix. For example, the word <i>ungrateful</i> contains three morphemes: <i>un</i> , <i>grate</i> , and <i>ful</i> .
Mother Tongue	This term variably means (a) the language learned from the mother, (b) the first language learned, (c) the native language of an area or country, (d) the stronger (or dominant) language at any time of life, (e) the language used most by a person, (f) the language toward which the person has the more positive attitude and affection (Baker, 2000).
Multi-age classroom	A classroom that combines children of different ages. Multi-age classrooms are based on the idea that older students benefit by modeling skills to younger students who benefit from having older role models to imitate.
Multiple Intelligences	A theory that suggests that the traditional notion of intelligence, based on IQ testing, is far too limited. Instead, it proposes eight different intelligences to account for a broader range of human potential in children and adults. These intelligences are: linguistic, logical-mathematical, spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, musical, interpersonal, intrapersonal, naturalist.
Multiple Literacies	Multiple literacies reach beyond a traditional 'reading and writing' definition of literacy to include the ability to process and interpret information presented through various media.
Multisensory Structured Language Education	An educational approach that uses visual, auditory, and kinesthetic-tactile cues simultaneously to enhance memory and learning. Links are consistently made between the visual (what we see), auditory (what we hear), and kinesthetic-tactile (what we feel) pathways in learning to read and spell.
N	
NAEP	National Assessment of Educational Progress - Also known as the "Nation's Report Card." A representative sample of students in America take the NAEP tests in 4th, 8th, and 12th grade to provide a national assessment of what America's students know.
Naming Speed	The rate at which a child can recite "overlearned" stimuli such as letters and single-digit numbers.
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	Also known as the "Nation's Report Card." A representative sample of students in America take the NAEP tests in 4th, 8th, and 12th grade to provide a national assessment of what America's students know.
Native Language	The first language a person acquires in life, or identifies with as a member of an ethnic group (Baker, 2000). See also mother tongue.

Acronym-Term	Definition
Natural Approach	The Natural Approach is a methodology for second language learning which focuses on communicative skills, both oral and written. It is based on linguist Stephen Krashen's theory of language acquisition, which assumes that speech emerges in four stages: (1) preproduction (listening and gestures), (2) early production (short phrases), (3) speech emergence (long phrases and sentences), and (4) intermediate fluency (conversation). This approach was developed by Krashen and teacher Tracy Terrell (1983) (Lessow-Hurley, 1991).
NCLB	The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 is the most recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education act of 1965. The act contains President George W. Bush's four basic education reform principles: stronger accountability for results, increased flexibility and local control, expanded options for parents, and an emphasis on teaching methods based on scientifically-based research. No Child Left Behind includes the requirement that schools help all students to be proficient in math and reading by 2014.
Neighborhood School	A public school students are assigned to attend because they live in the school's attendance area or attendance zone. Students who live in a school's attendance area may also choose to attend a private school, parochial school, home school, or open enroll into a charter school, option school, magnet school, focus school, online school, or another neighborhood public school.
NEP	Non English Proficient
Newcomer Program	A newcomer program addresses the needs of recent immigrant students, most often at the middle and high school level, especially those with limited or interrupted schooling in their home countries. Major goals of newcomer programs are to acquire beginning English language skills along with core academic skills and to acculturate to the U.S. school system. Some newcomer programs also include primary language development and an orientation to the student's new community (Genesee, et al, 1999).
No Child Left Behind (NCLB)	The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 is the most recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education act of 1965. The act contains President George W. Bush's four basic education reform principles: stronger accountability for results, increased flexibility and local control, expanded options for parents, and an emphasis on teaching methods based on scientifically-based research. No Child Left Behind includes the requirement that schools help all students to be proficient in math and reading by 2014.
Nonverbal Learning Disability	A neurological disorder which originates in the right hemisphere of the brain. Reception of nonverbal or performance-based information governed by this hemisphere is impaired in varying degrees, causing problems with visual-spatial, intuitive, organizational, evaluative, and holistic processing functions. For more information, go to Nonverbal LD.
Norm-referenced Assessment	A type of assessment that compares an individual child's score against the scores of other children who have previously taken the same assessment. With a norm-referenced assessment, the child's raw score can be converted into a comparative score such as a percentile rank or a stanine.
Norm-referenced Test	Norm-referenced tests (NRTs) are designed to discriminate among groups of students, and allow comparisons across years, grade levels, schools, and other variables. They are nationally, commercially available.
O	
O&M	Orientation and Mobility
OAPI	Overall Academic Performance Indicator

Acronym-Term	Definition
Occupational Therapy (OT)	A rehabilitative service to people with mental, physical, emotional, or developmental impairments. Services can include helping a student with pencil grip, physical exercises that may be used to increase strength and dexterity, or exercises to improve hand-eye coordination.
OCR	Office of Civil Rights
ODD	Oppositional Defiant Disorder
Office For Civil Rights (OCR)	A branch of the U.S. Department of Education that investigates allegations of civil rights violations in schools. It also initiates investigations of compliance with federal civil rights laws in schools that serve special student populations, including language-minority students. The office has developed several policies with regard to measuring compliance with the Lau v. Nichols decision. OCR is also responsible for enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information, see the OCR resources about ELLs and OCR Disability Discrimination: Overview of the Laws.
Office Of Special Education Programs (OSEP)	An office of the U.S. Department of Education whose goal is to improve results for children with disabilities (ages birth through 21) by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts.
OHI	Other Health Impaired
OHI	Other Health Impairment - A category of special education services for students with limited strength, vitality or alertness, due to chronic or acute health problems (such as asthma, ADHD, diabetes, or a heart condition).
Online school	A school that provides curriculum over the Internet, allowing students to study at their own pace. Some online programs are home-based, where parents or guardians are the primary instructors who receive guidance from qualified teachers via phone, e-mail, and in-person visits. Other online programs are site-based, where students come to a central location where teachers and mentors are available to help guide students through the course work.
Onset	The initial consonant sound(s) in a monosyllabic word. This unit is smaller than a syllable but may be larger than a phoneme (the onset of <i>bag</i> is <i>b-</i> ; of <i>swim</i> is <i>sw-</i>).
Onset-rime Phonics Instruction	In this approach, students learn to break monosyllabic words into their onsets (consonants preceding the vowel) and rimes (vowel and following consonants). They read each part separately and then blend the parts to say the whole word.
Open enrollment	The option Colorado students have to apply for enrollment in a public school other than the "neighborhood school" that many students are assigned to by their school district based on where they live.
Option school	A tuition-free public school that provides a special focus or educational program. Unlike charter schools, option schools are run by the school district. Most option schools do not have an attendance area and all students must open enroll into the school. Some option schools are also neighborhood schools where only the students who live outside of the attendance area must open enroll. Option schools are also called "magnet" or "focus" schools.

Acronym-Term	Definition
Oral Language Difficulties	A person with oral language difficulties may exhibit poor vocabulary, listening comprehension, or grammatical abilities for his or her age.
ORF	Oral Reading Fluency
Orthographic Knowledge	The understanding that the sounds in a language are represented by written or printed symbols.
OS	Observation Survey
OST	Office of School Turnaround.
OT	Occupational Therapy
Other Health Impairments (OHI)	A category of special education services for students with limited strength, vitality or alertness, due to chronic or acute health problems (such as asthma, ADHD, diabetes, or a heart condition).
Outward Bound	A nonprofit educational organization that operates several schools throughout Colorado that are dedicated to character development and self-discovery through challenge and adventure.
P	
Paraprofessional Educator	Also known as instructional aides and teachers' aides, these individuals provide assistance to teachers in the classroom. They do not provide primary direct instruction, but may help clarify material to students through home language or other supports. In classrooms funded through Title I, instructional paraprofessionals must have at least an Associates' degree or its equivalent, or have passed a test.
Parochial school	A type of private school that teaches religious ideas in its educational program and usually operates as part of a religious institution, such as a church.
PC	Perceptual or Communicative Disability (this is the same as SLD)
PD	Physical Disability
PD	Professional Development. Professional Development for instructional and curriculum provided by individual schools and the district.
PDD	Pervasive Developmental Disorder - The category of special education services for students with delays or deviance in their social/language/motor and/or cognitive development.
PDU	Professional Development Unit. A Salary based building block to be completed annually to support standard salary progression and ongoing professional development.

Acronym-Term	Definition
PEP	Personal Education Plan. Each student in the district has data linked to academic progress and post secondary options.
Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD)	The category of special education services for students with delays or deviance in their social/language/motor and/or cognitive development.
Phoneme	The smallest unit of speech that serves to distinguish one utterance from another in a language.
Phonemic Awareness	The ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds in spoken words. An example of how beginning readers show us they have phonemic awareness is combining or blending the separate sounds of a word to say the word (/c/ /a/ /t/ – cat .)
Phonics	Phonics is a form of instruction to cultivate the understanding and use of the alphabetic principle. It emphasizes the predictable relationship between phonemes (the sounds in spoken language) and graphemes (the letters that represent those sounds in written language) and shows how this information can be used to read or decode words. See also: Analogy-based phonics, Analytic phonics, Embedded phonics, Onset-rime phonics instruction, Phonics through spelling, Synthetic phonics, Systematic and explicit phonics instruction.
Physical Therapy (PT)	Instructional support and treatment of physical disabilities, under a doctor's prescription, that helps a person improve the use of bones, muscles, joints and nerves.
PLAAFP	Present Level of Academic and Functional Performance
PLC	Professional Learning Community. This is the umbrella for all Montbello Professional Development (PD) activities.
Point Of View*	Chiefly in literary texts, the narrative point of view (as in first- or third-person narration); more broadly, the position or perspective conveyed or represented by an author, narrator, speaker, or character.
Portfolio Assessment	A portfolio assessment is a systematic collection of student work that is analyzed to show progress over time with regard to instructional objectives (Valencia 1991, cited in O' Malley & Valdez-Pierce, 1996). Student portfolios may include responses to readings, samples of writing, drawings, or other work.
PPF	Parent Permission Form
Prefix	A prefix is a word part added to the beginning of a root or base word to create a new meaning. The most common prefixes include dis- (as in disagree), in- (as in invaluable), re- (as in repeat), and -un (as in unfriendly).
Pre-reading	Prereading activities are activities used with students before they interact with reading material. They're designed to provide students with needed background knowledge about a topic, or to help students identify their purpose for reading.
Prewriting	Prewriting is any activity designed to help students generate or organize their ideas before writing.
Primary Language	The primary language is the language in which bilingual/multilingual speakers are most fluent, or which they prefer to use. This is not necessarily the language first learned in life. See also dominant language.

Acronym-Term	Definition
Print Awareness	Basic knowledge about print and how it is typically organized on a page. For example, print conveys meaning, print is read left to right, and words are separated by spaces.
Private school	A school not administered by the local, state, or national government that has the right to choose which students it will enroll. Private schools charge tuition and some offer or accept scholarships to help families pay tuition.
PROComp	The Professional Compensation System for Teachers. It consists of four components-Knowledge and Skills, Professional Evaluation, Market Incentives and Student Growth.
Professional Development (PD)	Professional Development for instructional and curriculum provided by individual schools and the district.
Proficient(ly)	A student performance that meets the criterion established in the Standards as measured by a teacher or assessment; in the Standards, often paired with independent(ly) to suggest a successful student performance done without scaffolding; in the Reading standards, the act of reading a text with comprehension; see also independent(ly), scaffolding.
Project-based learning	Academic content is taught primarily through projects that include learning about many subjects (such as math, science, reading, and writing) and may be completed over the course of weeks or months.
PSD	Preschooler with a Disability
PT	Physical Therapist/Physical Therapy - Instructional support and treatment of physical disabilities, under a doctor's prescription, that helps a person improve the use of bones, muscles, joints and nerves.
PTC	Parent Teacher Conferences.
Public school	A school funded by taxpayer dollars that does not charge tuition. There are many different kinds of public schools to choose from, including charter schools, option schools, magnet schools, focus schools, online schools, and neighborhood schools.
Public school of choice	A public school that a student may choose to attend outside of his or her assigned attendance area. In Colorado, students open enroll into a public school of choice such as a charter school, option school, magnet school, focus school, online school, or another neighborhood school.
Pull-out ESL	Pull-out ESL is a program in which LEP students are "pulled out" of regular, mainstream classrooms for special instruction in English as a second language.
Push-in ESL	In contrast with pull-out ESL instruction, a certified ESL teacher provides ELLs with instruction in a mainstream or content-area classroom.
Q	
QRI	Qualitative Reading Inventory
R	
Readability	Readability refers to the level of difficulty in a written passage. This depends on factors such as length of words, length of sentences, grammatical complexity and word frequency.

Acronym-Term	Definition
Reading Coach	See Literacy Coach.
Reading Comprehension	See text comprehension.
Reading Disability	Another term for dyslexia, sometimes referred to as reading disorder or reading difference.
Reading First	Reading First is a federal program that focuses on putting proven methods of early reading instruction in classrooms. Through Reading First, states and districts receive support to apply scientifically based reading research—and the proven instructional and assessment tools consistent with this research—to ensure that all children learn to read well by the end of third grade.
Receptive Language	The aspect of spoken language that includes listening, and the aspect of written language that includes reading.
Reciprocal Teaching	Reciprocal teaching is a multiple-strategy instructional approach for teaching comprehension skills to students. Teachers teach students four strategies: asking questions about the text they are reading; summarizing parts of the text; clarifying words and sentences they don't understand; and predicting what might occur next in the text.
Repeated And Monitored Oral Reading	In this instructional activity, students read and reread a text a certain number of times or until a certain level of fluency is reached. This technique has been shown to improve reading fluency and overall reading achievement. Four re-readings are usually sufficient for most students. Students may also practice reading orally through the use of audiotapes, tutors, peer guidance, or other means.
Response To Intervention (RTI)	Response to Intervention is a process whereby local education agencies (LEAs) document a child's response to scientific, research-based intervention using a tiered approach. In contrast to the discrepancy criterion model, RTI provides early intervention for students experiencing difficulty learning to read. RTI was authorized for use in December 2004 as part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
Responsive Instruction	A way of making teaching decisions in which a student's reaction to instruction directly shapes how future instruction is provided.
Rewriting	A part of writing and preparing presentations that involves largely or wholly replacing a previous, unsatisfactory effort with a new effort, better aligned to task, purpose, and audience, on the same or a similar topic or theme; compared to revising, a larger-scale activity more akin to replacement than refinement; see also editing, revising.
Rime	The vowel and all that follows it in a monosyllabic word (the rime of <i>bag</i> is <i>-ag</i> ; of <i>swim</i> is <i>-im</i>).
Root Word	Words from other languages that are the origin of many English words. About 60 percent of all English words have Latin or Greek origins.
RTI	Response to Intervention is a process whereby local education agencies (LEAs) document a child's response to scientific, research-based intervention using a tiered approach. In contrast to the discrepancy criterion model, RTI provides early intervention for students experiencing difficulty learning to read. RTI was authorized for use in December 2004 as part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
S	
SAL	Site Assessment Leader

Acronym-Term	Definition
SAR	School Accountability Report - The report is published by the state of Colorado and is also known as the "public school report card." A SAR is published for each Colorado public school and includes the overall school rating (based on the CSAP), a student academic growth rating, assessment results, school environment and safety reporting, a district taxpayer's report, questions parents should ask, and more.
SASID	State Assigned Student Identification
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test
SBPR	Standards Based Progress Report
Scaffolding	A way of teaching in which the teacher provides support in the form of modeling, prompts, direct explanations, and targeted questions — offering a teacher-guided approach at first. As students begin to acquire mastery of targeted objectives, direct supports are reduced and the learning becomes more student-guided. The teacher provides contextual supports for meaning during instruction or assessment, such as visual displays, classified lists, or tables or graphs.
Scholarships	Funds provided by private organizations or the government to help families pay for tuition and related educational costs. Colorado does not provide government-funded scholarships for students attending school in grades prekindergarten through 12. Several private organizations in Colorado provide scholarships for low-income families to help pay for private school tuition.
School Accountability Report (SAR)	The report is published by the state of Colorado and is also known as the "public school report card." A SAR is published for each Colorado public school and includes the overall school rating (based on the CSAP), a student academic growth rating, assessment results, school environment and safety reporting, a district taxpayer's report, questions parents should ask, and more.
School board	Often used as another term for a school district Board of Education and may also refer to a group of people who oversee the administration of a private school or charter school.
School choice	A term used to describe a program that allows students to choose to attend one of various participating schools, either through vouchers, tax credits, scholarships, or the open enrollment process.
School district	An entity designed to administer public education for elementary and secondary students in a specific geographical area. School districts are governed by a locally-elected Board of Education.
School Performance Framework (SPF)	This document is used to evaluate school performance in terms of student achievement and overall organizational strength using a variety of longitudinal measures. SPF is also used to determine a school's accreditation rating for reporting purposes to the Colorado Department of Education, as well as provide information for teacher and principal compensation systems.
School-within-a-school	A small academic program within a larger school that has its own students, personnel, budget, program, curriculum, and culture.
SCR	Short Constructed Response.

Acronym-Term	Definition
SEE	Signing Exact English
Self-advocacy	The development of specific skills and understandings that enable children and adults to explain their specific learning disabilities to others and cope positively with the attitudes of peers, parents, teachers, and employers.
Self-Monitoring	The ability to observe yourself and know when you are doing an activity act according to a standard. For example, knowing if you do or do not understand what you are reading. Or whether your voice tone is appropriate for the circumstances or too loud or too soft.
Semantic Maps	A semantic map is a strategy for graphically representing concepts. As a strategy, semantic maps involve expanding a student's vocabulary by encouraging new links to familiar concepts. Instructionally, semantic maps can be used as a prereading activity for charting what is known about a concept, theme, or individual word. They can also be used during reading as a way to assimilate new information learned from the text.
Semantic Organizers	Graphic organizers that look somewhat like a spider web where lines connect a central concept to a variety of related ideas and events.
Sentence Combining	Sentence combining is an instructional approach that involves teaching students to combine two or more simple sentences to form a more complex or sophisticated sentence.
SGO	Student Growth Objective. You will submit two objectives in the beginning of the year that are student centered and data driven. You also receive pay incentives for student growth each year.
SIED	Significant Identifiable Emotional Disability
Sight Words	Words that a reader recognizes without having to sound them out. Some sight words are "irregular," or have letter-sound relationships that are uncommon.
SIM	Strategic Instructional Model - Promotes effective teaching and learning of critical content in schools. SIM strives to help teachers make decisions about what is of greatest importance, what we can teach students to help them to learn, and how to teach them well.
SIOP	Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol
SIP	School Improvement Plan (Action Plan). A strategic plan for the school to provide guidance, evaluation, and direction to meet a school-wide vision and provide a mission across the curriculum.
SIT	Student Intervention Team (replaces PET, CSAT, Care and Concern, etc.) - This team designs and implements a problem-solving process around the needs of a student who is not responding adequately to current instruction and interventions.

Acronym-Term	Definition
SL	Speech Language
SLD	Specific Learning Disability
SLI	Specific Learning Impairment
SLIC	Significant Limited Intellectual Capacity
SLP	Speech Language Pathologist
SLP	Speech Language Pathologist - An expert who can help children and adolescents who have language disorders to understand and give directions, ask and answer questions, convey ideas, and improve the language skills that lead to better academic performance. An SLP can also counsel individuals and families to understand and deal with speech and language disorders.
SLT	School Leadership Team. The SLT meets monthly and comprises the principal, department heads, association representative(s), and other appointed individuals.
Small Learning Communities	Small learning communities are an increasingly popular approach for teaching adolescents. This approach uses personalized classroom environments where teachers know each individual student and can tailor instruction to meet their academic and social/emotional needs. The goal is to increase students' sense of belonging, participation, and commitment to school.
Social English	Often referred to as "playground English" or "survival English", this is the basic language ability required for face-to-face communication, often accompanied by gestures and relying on context to aid understanding. Social English is much more easily and quickly acquired than academic English, but is not sufficient to meet the cognitive and linguistic demands of an academic classroom. Also referred to as Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS).
Special Education (SPED)	Services offered to children who possess one or more of the following disabilities: specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairments, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, multiple disabilities, hearing impairments, orthopedic impairments, visual impairments, autism, combined deafness and blindness, traumatic brain injury, and other health impairments.

Acronym-Term	Definition
Special needs	A term used to describe students who have learning difficulties that require extra support, including visual or hearing impairment, physical or mental handicap, serious emotional difficulties, autism, and attention deficit disorder.
Specific Learning Disability (SLD)	The official term used in federal legislation to refer to difficulty in certain areas of learning, rather than in all areas of learning. Synonymous with learning disabilities.
SPED	Special Education
SPED	Special Education.
Speech Impaired (SI)	A category of special education services for students who have difficulty with speech sounds in their native language.
Speech Language Pathologist (SLP)	An expert who can help children and adolescents who have language disorders to understand and give directions, ask and answer questions, convey ideas, and improve the language skills that lead to better academic performance. An SLP can also counsel individuals and families to understand and deal with speech and language disorders.
SPF	School Performance Framework. This document is used to evaluate school performance in terms of student achievement and overall organizational strength using a variety of longitudinal measures. SPF is also used to determine a school's accreditation rating for reporting purposes to the Colorado Department of Education, as well as provide information for teacher and principal compensation systems.
SRI	Scholastic Reading Inventory
SS	Scale Score
Standard English	In the Standards, the most widely accepted and understood form of expression in English in the United States; used in the Standards to refer to formal English writing and speaking; the particular focus of Language standards 1 and 2 .
STAR	STAR is a computer adaptive reading assessment used in DPS as a screening and progress monitoring tool. It is a product from Renaissance Learning, Inc.
State Education Agency (SEA)	A state education agency is the agency primarily responsible for the state supervision of public elementary and secondary schools.
Story Structure	In story structure, a reader sees the way the content and events of a story are organized into a plot. Students learn to identify the categories of content (setting, characters, initiating events, internal reactions, goals, attempts, and outcomes). Often students recognize the way the story is organized by developing a story map. This strategy improves students' comprehension and memory of story content and meaning.
Strand	An element of a school's educational program that offers a unique learning environment or curriculum. For example, a school offers both the traditional district curriculum and a Montessori strand where students who enroll in the program learn in a separate Montessori classroom.
Strategic Instructional Model (SIM)	SIM promotes effective teaching and learning of critical content in schools. SIM strives to help teachers make decisions about what is of greatest importance, what we can teach students to help them to learn, and how to teach them well.

Acronym-Term	Definition
Striving Readers Act	Striving Readers is aimed at improving the reading skills of middle school- and high school-aged students who are reading below grade level. Striving Readers supports the implementation and evaluation of research-based reading interventions for struggling middle and high school readers in Title I eligible schools that are at risk of not meeting or are not meeting adequate yearly progress (AYP) requirements under the No Child Left Behind Act, or that have significant percentages or number of students reading below grade level, or both.
Striving Readers Legislation	Striving Readers is a government program designed to improve the reading skills of middle and high school students who read below grade level. Authorized in 2005 as part of the No Child Left Behind Act, this program supports initiatives to improve literacy instruction across the curriculum and works to build a scientific research base for strategies that improve literacy skills for adolescents.
Structured English immersion	A program that teaches students with limited background in the English language. These students learn only in English and at a separate pace from other students until they have improved their English fluency.
Student-directed learning / Student-centered learning	A progressive educational format in which the students' interests and stages of development determine what and how subjects are taught in the classroom, rather than pre-arranged lessons and curricula.
Suffix	"A suffix is a word part that is added to the end of a root word. The four most frequent suffixes account for 97 percent of suffixed words in printed school English. These include -ing, -ed, -ly, and -es."
Summarizing	Summarizing is a process in which a reader synthesizes the important ideas in a text. Teaching students to summarize helps them generate main ideas, connect central ideas, eliminate redundant and unnecessary information, and remember what they read.
Summative Assessment	Summative assessment is generally carried out at the end of a course or project. In an educational setting, summative assessments are typically used to assign students a course grade.
Supplemental (education) services	Part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, these services may include free tutoring or other remedial help for low-income students in schools that fail to meet academic growth goals set by state and federal government. School districts are required to give parents a list of state-approved service providers.
Supplemental online program	An online learning program that offers courses or other learning opportunities to students who are otherwise enrolled in physical schools or online schools. Credit for successful completion of these learning opportunities is awarded by the physical school or online school in which the student is enrolled.
Supplemental Services	Services offered to students from low-income families who are attending schools that have been identified as in need of improvement for two consecutive years. Parents can choose the appropriate services (tutoring, academic assistance, etc.) from a list of approved providers, which are paid for by the school district.
Synthetic Phonics	In this instructional approach, students learn how to convert letters or letter combinations into a sequence of sounds, and then how to blend the sounds together to form recognizable words.
Systematic And Explicit Phonics Instruction	The most effective way to teach phonics. A program is systematic if the plan of instruction includes a carefully selected set of letter-sound relationships that are organized into a logical sequence. Explicit means the programs provide teachers with precise directions for the teaching of these relationships.
T	

Acronym-Term	Definition
TABE	Test of Adult Basic Education
Tax credits	Credit on an individual's or corporation's tax bill for payments or donations made to cover a child's educational expenses, such as tuition, tutoring, and textbooks.
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
TC	Teacher Candidate (student teacher).
TCAP	Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) is Colorado's large- scale standardized achievement test and replaced the Colorado Student Assessment Program CSAP - A series of tests taken by public school students in 3rd to 10th grade in the areas of reading, writing, math, and science.
TDD/TTY	Text Telecommunications Device for the Deaf
Teachers Of English To Speakers Of Other Languages (TESOL)	TESOL is a professional association of teachers, administrators, researchers and others concerned with promoting and strengthening instruction and research in the teaching of English to speakers of other languages.
Text Complexity	The inherent difficulty of reading and comprehending a text combined with consideration of reader and task variables; in the Standards, a three-part assessment of text difficulty that pairs qualitative and quantitative measures with reader-task considerations.
Text Complexity Band	A range of text difficulty corresponding to grade spans within the Standards; specifically, the spans from grades 2-3, grades 4-5, grades 6-8, grades 9-10, and grades 11-CCR (college and career readiness).
Text Comprehension	The reason for reading: understanding what is read by reading actively (making sense from text) and with purpose (for learning, understanding, or enjoyment).
Textual Evidence	See evidence.
TFA	Teach For America. This is an alternative licensure program.
TIG	Tiered Intervention Grant. Montbello is a TIG recipient.
TIR	Teacher in Residence. An alternate way for teachers to become certified. Under this program, teachers will continue taking classes while teaching and working toward their certification.
TNLI	Transitional Native Language Instruction

Acronym-Term	Definition
Total Physical Response (TPR)	Total Physical Response is a language-learning approach based on the relationship between language and its physical representation or execution. TPR emphasizes the use of physical activity for increasing meaningful learning opportunities and language retention. A TPR lesson involves a detailed series of consecutive actions accompanied by a series of commands or instructions given by the teacher. Students respond by listening and performing the appropriate actions.
TPR	Total Physical Response is a language-learning approach based on the relationship between language and its physical representation or execution. TPR emphasizes the use of physical activity for increasing meaningful learning opportunities and language retention. A TPR lesson involves a detailed series of consecutive actions accompanied by a series of commands or instructions given by the teacher. Students respond by listening and performing the appropriate actions.
Traditional district curriculum	Each local board of education determines the curricula that its schools will teach. The majority of schools in a school district will teach the district-chosen curricula, but charter and option schools often request a waiver from the board to teach different curricula.
Transition	Commonly used to refer to the change from secondary school to postsecondary programs, work, and independent living typical of young adults. Also used to describe other periods of major change such as from early childhood to school or from more specialized to mainstreamed settings.
Transitional Bilingual Education	An educational program in which two languages are used to provide content matter instruction. Over time, the use of the native language is decreased and the use of English is increased until only English is used.
U	
Unified School District (USD)	USD is a common acronym used in education plans to refer to the elementary, middle, and high schools within the school district.
Universal Design For Learning (UDL)	UDL provides a framework for creating flexible goals, methods, materials, and assessments that accommodate learner differences. For more information visit the Center for Applied Special Technology website.
USD	Unified School District - USD is a common acronym used in education plans to refer to the elementary, middle, and high schools within the school district.
V	
VD	Visual Disability
VI	Visual Impairment
Virtual school	see Online school / online learning program

Acronym-Term	Definition
Vocabulary	Vocabulary refers to the words a reader knows. Listening vocabulary refers to the words a person knows when hearing them in oral speech. Speaking vocabulary refers to the words we use when we speak. Reading vocabulary refers to the words a person knows when seeing them in print. Writing vocabulary refers to the words we use in writing.
Vouchers	Usually refers to a program that allows parents to direct a specified amount of government-collected funds to send their children to a participating public or private school of their choice. The term is also used by private organizations to mean a scholarship provided to low-income families to help with private school tuition payments.
W	
W-APT	WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test. It is an English language proficiency "screener" test given to incoming students who may be designated as English language learners.
With Prompting And Support/with (some) Guidance And Support	See scaffolding.
Word Attack	Word attack is an aspect of reading instruction that includes intentional strategies for learning to decode, sight read, and recognize written words.
Word Roots	Word roots are words from other languages that are the origin of many English words. About 60 percent of all English words have Latin or Greek origins.
Working Memory	The ability to store and manage information in one's mind for a short period of time. In one test of working memory a person listens to random numbers and then repeats them. The average adult can hold 7 numbers in their working memory. Working memory is sometimes called Short-term memory
X	
Y	
Year-round school	A school calendar that exchanges a longer summer vacation for several shorter breaks at different times in order to reduce the need for extra review. Most students in year-round school are in class about the same number of days as students on a traditional school calendar.
Z	