Issaquah School District Acronyms and Terminology Guide

TERM	DEFINITION
504	A 504 plan is a written plan that describes the educational and related aids and services that a district determines a student needs to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education. Students who have health concerns such as hearing loss, anxiety, diabetes, asthma, severe allergies, etc., should share this information with the school counselor to make sure they receive the support and accommodations that they need.
Accommodation	A change made to a student's academic plan or daily schedule that helps the student learn better.
ACT	American College Testing. One of the standardized tests for college applications. Typically taken in the winter/spring of the junior year or fall of the senior. Students sometimes take both the SAT and the ACT and submit the better score to colleges. (https://www.act.org/)
ACT Program in ISD	The Academy for Community Transition (ACT) in the Issaquah School District will provide training and support to let young, differently-abled adults (the ages of 18-21 years old) connect with community-based employment experiences and fine-tune social, vocational, and life skills.
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder.
Angel Program	A PTA/PTSA program that supplies food and other items for in-need students.
AP – Office Staff	Assistant Principal
AP Course	Advanced Placement course. This is a college-level course at high schools that has a national exam in May. A passing score (especially a 4 or 5) can earn you college credit. All 3 Issaquah High schools provide different Advanced Placement courses.
ASB	Associated Student Body, School-run student organization that runs homecoming, dances, spirit weeks, clubs, etc.
BASC	Before After School Care. The School Age Care program is a before and after-school program designed for students in kindergarten - 5th grade. They host a program at all 16 Issaquah School District elementary schools. BASC currently also offers summer camps for elementary and middle school students.
BC	Bellevue College, a local community college that high school junior and senior students use for the Running Start program.
BOD	**Board of Directors**. The Issaquah School District currently has 5 School Board of Directors, each representing a different part of the district.
Bond	**(Bonds = buildings)** The State of Washington does not fund the regular building or maintenance of public schools. Instead, local voters must approve school bonds for this purpose.
Booster Clubs	The Booster Club partners with ASB to support high school students' extra-curricular passions outside the classroom, including sports, clubs, and activities. They fundraise through concessions at sports games and logo wear.
Canvas	6th – 12th grade Learning Management System used to facilitate teaching and learning throughout the district.
CCC	College and Career Center. Parents and/or students may make an appointment with the staff at the CCC.
Certificated	Teachers, counselors, principals, and assistant principals. Certificated staff have an educator's certificate.
CCSS Common Core State Standards	A common set of national goals for K-12 students in Math and English Language Arts. These goals help prepare students for college and careers.

Chaperone	A person who accompanies or looks after a group of students on a field trip or sporting event.
Classified	Non-certificated staff (e.g., paraprofessionals, bus drivers, secretaries, nurses)
Clever	Clever is the online single sign-on portal (SSO) for Kindergarten-5th students access to a variety of curriculum tools and technology resources.
Credit	Any year-long course is worth one credit. A semester course is worth 1⁄2 credit. To graduate from a Washington State public high school, you need 24 credits.
CTE	High School Career and Technical Education Courses. Students must complete two semesters of CTE to graduate. Students can apply for college credit as well as high school credit for CTE courses.
Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia	Dyslexia is a learning disability that impairs reading ability. Dysgraphia impacts handwriting and fine motor skills. Dyscalculia makes math difficult.
ELA	English Language Arts
EVP	Enrollment Verification Process. This is the mandatory process for the current ISD student to verify the enrollment status for the new school year. This process normally happens in early August.
Extracurricular	Activities outside the school day that are sponsored by the school. These activities may cost money.
FACE	Family And Community Engagement., A PTA/PTSA committee to support and help school families and the community.
FAPE	The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act guarantees the right to a "Free Appropriate Public Education"
FLASH	Family Life and Sexual Health. In ISD, this is the sex education portion of health classes starts in 5th grade. ISD allows parents to review the material ahead of time and opt out.
Freshman/Sophomore/ Junior/Senior	Students in 9th grade are called freshman; in 10th grade, sophomore; in 11th grade, junior; and in the 12th grade, senior.
FT or F/T or FTE	Full-time employee. Refers to teachers and staff.
Fundraiser	An opportunity for the school to raise money for additional programs, such as sports, art, music, and supplies.
GPA	Grade Point Average, a cumulative numerical score of a letter grade, NO ranking in the ISD based on % average
Homecoming Week	Week of school spirit activities that culminate in a home football game (Friday) and homecoming dance (Saturday). This is typically in September or October.
HSBP	High School and Beyond Plan. This is a required plan to graduate, done mostly during school hours. Run by College and Career Center.
Highly Capable Student	A student who typically scores in the top 3 -5% on both cognitive and achievement tests. Scores are typically at the 97th percentile or above.
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEP Individual Education Programs	These are written educational plans that are developed at least annually for students who have a disability.
IFCB	Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank
ISD	Issaquah School District
ISF	Issaquah Schools Foundation
JV	Junior Varsity. This is the feeder team to the Varsity Team. Freshmen will typically be on the JV team instead of the varsity team.
LAP	**Learning Assistance Program**. The Issaquah School District's LAP program mission is to provide intensive intervention for students not meeting standards in literacy. The goal of the program is to accelerate learning for these students and bring them quickly to standard.

LEVY	**(Levy = Learning)** Levies are the only locally approved ballot measures that directly pay for classroom and educational needs in our schools that the state does not fund.
LRC Learning Resource Classroom	A classroom where special education students receive instruction from a Special Education Teacher. Students may be in this class for part or all of the day, depending on their IEP.
LRC II	Students with moderate to severe disabilities receive specially designed instruction in all areas. Participation in general education classes will occur as designated in the IEP.
MERLIN	Mind Education Right Left Integration is a self-contained, full-time, highly capable program located at **Apollo Elementary** and **Endeavour Elementary** from 3rd grade to 5th grade. MERLIN offers an enriched academic program that follows the same curriculum as the general education classes but goes deeper into the content, has a greater emphasis on higher-level thinking skills and behaviors, moves at a quicker pace, requires more student work and independence, and provides acceleration in some subject areas.
ML	Multilingual Learning
MTSS Multi-Tier Systems of Support	The model that the Issaquah School District uses to identify student needs for both behavior and academics. The goal is to proactively identify and respond to student needs, provide different levels of support, and promote social-emotional well-being. It uses teams of teachers at each school who review sets of measurements at specific times each year to identify students who would benefit from early intervention.
NGSS Next Generation Science Standards	A common set of national goals for K-12 students in science and engineering. These goals help prepare students for college and careers.
OSPI	Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (https://www.k12.wa.us). This is the government department in charge of public education in Washington State. OSPI also collects data and gives report cards on schools
Paraprofessional or Para	Paraprofessionals are valuable members of the educational team. They provide essential support in a variety of roles throughout the district, like supervision of school grounds, crossing guard, lunchroom, library, and recess. Provides clerical support as needed, etc. They also assist Kindergarten teachers or Special Education teachers with instruction to groups of students or on a one-to-one basis.
PE Physical Education	A class where students work on physical fitness.
PEP	Primary Enrichment Program is a part-time, highly capable program for kindergarten to 2nd graders. It is offered at each elementary school. PEP services may include pull-out or push-in models, and/or differentiated instruction within the classroom. SAGE/PEP teachers provide support for these services. Students work on special enrichment projects that incorporate a high level of cognitive demand. One time a week for 30 minutes in Kindergarten. One hour a week in 1st and 2nd grade.
PSAT	Preliminary SAT (Standardized Achievement Test). Not required for graduation but 10th and 11th grade students take it in Fall during the school day.
PTSA / PTA Parent Teacher (Student) Association	A parent organization that supports students and families to ensure success in education.
SAGE	Special Approach to Gifted Education is a part-time, highly capable program for 3rd -5th grade students. It is offered at each elementary school. SAGE students experience challenging activities designed to develop and enhance their problem-solving, creative thinking, and process thinking skills. Students also develop their social/emotional skills in the areas of collaboration, confidence as a learner, responsibility, and quality of work. There's SAGE Math and SAGE Reading. One or two hours a week.
SAT	Standardized Achievement Test. One of the standardized tests for college applications. Typically taken in the winter/spring of the junior year or fall of the senior. Students sometimes take both the SAT and the ACT and submit the better score to colleges.
SBA	Smart Balanced Assessment. Washington State's standardized, end-of-year test for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

SBHC	School Based Health Services. Any student in ISD can be referred or self-refer to a School Based Health Counselor. Students under the age of 13 need parental permission. Over age 13 (per Washington State Law), permission is not required.
Seesaw	Seesaw gives elementary students creative tools to capture and reflect on their learning – in real time. It's easy to use and makes it simple to collect student work in one place and share with families. Seesaw is accessed through CLEVER.
Special Education	Specially designed instruction is provided to a student who has a disability.
SEL	Social and Emotional Learning. These are non-academic but vital lessons for the students.
Skyward	Issaquah School District's Family Access portal to student attendance, classes, grades, and report cards.
Standards-Based Grading	Grading based on common core standards. The students are expected to meet standards, and the teachers focus on teaching grade-level standards and supporting students to meet grade-level standards.
STEM/STEAM	STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics
Title 1 Program	The federal "Elementary and Secondary Education Act" (ESEA) – enacted in 1965 – is the nation's national education law. ESEA authorizes several state-run programs for eligible schools and districts. Now known as ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act), the law works to address the performance gaps between student groups in our schools by offering services and interventions to support struggling learners.
Varsity	The principal school team for a sport. For example, Varsity Football will have the most experienced players on it.
VIS	Volunteers for Issaquah Schools. Supports bonds and levies.
VOICE Mentors	A volunteer who mentors students in academic, social, or life skills.
WAKids	WAKIDS is a state-wide program designed to welcome children and their families to kindergarten and the K-12 system as partners in their child's education.
WANIC	Washington Network Innovative Careers. These are optional CTE classes available at area schools (ISD and outside).
WCAS	Washington Comprehensive Assessment in Science. The state-wide science test in Washington state.
WIDA	World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment. It is a consortium that provides language development resources and English language proficiency assessments for students in grades K–12 who are identified as English learners (ELs).
Xello	Xello is a District-provided online program that students use to complete the High School and Beyond Plan graduation requirement starting in 6th grade to explore careers, post-high school opportunities, and a wide variety of college options.

**A big thank you to Lorna Gilmore and Cortney Eldridge for their help in creating this helpful list of acronyms and terms commonly used in the Issaquah School District. We hope it serves as a useful resource for all ISD families!