

Glossary of Terms

504 – The U.S. Department of Health and Social Services, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) defines 504 as follows: “Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a national law that protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on their disability. The nondiscrimination requirements of the law apply to employers and organizations that receive financial assistance from any Federal department or agency, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). These organizations and employers include many hospitals, nursing homes, mental health centers and human service programs.

Section 504 forbids organizations and employers from excluding or denying individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to receive program benefits and services. It defines the rights of individuals with disabilities to participate in, and have access to, program benefits and services.”

Accessibility- Barrier-free programs, services, and buildings which are open to people of all disabilities, age, education-level etc.

Access barriers- Any obstruction that prevents people with disabilities from using standard facilities, equipment and resources.

Accessible web design- Creating web pages according to universal design principles to eliminate or reduce barriers, including those that affect people with disabilities.

Accommodation- An adjustment to make a program, facility, or resource accessible to a person with a disability.

Adaptive technology- Hardware or software products that provide access to a computer that is otherwise inaccessible to an individual with a disability.

Adult Expansion Medicaid Services- Through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), effective January 2014, eligibility will be expanded to include more childless adults who have no insurance.

Adult Health Care System- Where adult’s access medical care by providers trained in adult medical issues.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) - Legislation passed in 2011 which overhauled the current health insurance system in the United States of America.

“Age in place”- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) defines aging in place as "the ability to live in one's own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level."

Age of Eligibility- The age at which a person becomes eligible to receive a certain service or support.

Age of Majority- Delaware Code identifies the Age of Majority as follows: “TITLE 1, General Provisions, and CHAPTER 7. AGE OF MAJORITY, § 701. Age of majority.

‘A person of the age of 18 years or older on June 16, 1972, and any person who attains the age of 18 years thereafter, shall be deemed to be of full legal age for all purposes whatsoever and shall have the same duties, liabilities, responsibilities, rights and legal capacity as persons heretofore acquired at 21 years of age unless otherwise provided.’

1 Del. C. 1953, § 701; [58 Del. Laws, c. 439, § 1.](#)”

Age out- The age at which a person has to exit a particular service delivery system (typically at age 18 or 21, depending on the service).

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - The U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights defines the ADA as follows: “The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities that are like those provided to individuals on the basis of race, sex, national origin and religion. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in employment, public accommodations, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.”

Assessment – Another word for “test.” States are required to align their academic standards and academic assessments.

Assistive Technology (AT) - Devices or equipment that help a person function or complete tasks more independently.

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder- (ADHD): a neurobiological disorder affecting an individual's attentiveness and/or impulse control. Symptoms include absent-mindedness, hyperactivity, distractibility, impulsiveness, developmentally inappropriate behavior. The symptoms appear during early childhood (before age seven) and typically last well into adulthood. Also known as attention deficit disorder (ADD).

Authentic Multiple Work Settings”- Engagement of individuals completing real/relevant work activities in an array of settings in the community specific to improving job skills (including soft skills) needed to gain part/full time employment.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD): a complex developmental disability that appears during early childhood and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. Autism is characterized by language and communication deficits, social cognition deficits, and repetitive behaviors. These symptoms can vary widely in type and degree of severity; some individuals display only "mild" symptoms, while others' symptoms may be much more profound. See also: "Asperger's syndrome", "pervasive developmental disorder".

Behavior disorders/emotional disturbance: umbrella terms used to classify children who exhibit chronic and extreme social, emotional, or behavioral problems. The terms may refer to a number of different maladjustments, including hyperactivity and aggression, anxiety and withdrawal, emotional immaturity, and learning problems.

Basic Access- Includes the most basic features to allow someone with a mobility disability to enter and have basic use of a home: one no-step entrance; a 32 inch door clearance through the first floor and at least a half-bathroom on the first floor with clearance for a wheelchair. This is also sometimes referred to as “**Visitability**”. Basic access features are far less costly when built into the design of a home when it is constructed. Basic access features make it easier to adapt homes for occupants to age in place.

Caregiver- A person who provides support for activities of daily living to an individual with a disability.

Charter School – Independent public schools that operate under public supervision but outside traditional public school systems. Charter schools are exempt from many state and local rules, do not charge tuition, have a performance contract that specifies how the charter school will measure students' performance, and complies with federal civil rights and education laws. (20 U.S.C. § 7221i)

Cerebral palsy: a life-long condition caused by damage to the brain during pregnancy, labor or shortly following birth. It is characterized by the inability to control motor functions and can result in involuntary movement, disturbance in gait and mobility, visual, hearing or speech impairments.

Cleft Palate -A cleft palate is a birth defect characterized by a split or opening in the roof of the mouth. It results from failure of the parts of the roof of the mouth to join together during pregnancy. Cleft palates may be caused by genetic or environmental factors.

Closed Captioning -Closed captioning allows individuals who are deaf or have limited hearing to view television and understand what is being said. The words spoken on the television are written across the bottom of the screen so the person can follow the dialogue and action of the program.

Communication Disabilities -Communication disabilities include any visual, hearing or speech impairments that limit a person's ability to communicate.

Conduct disorder- a persistent pattern of behavior that involves deliberate violations of the rights of others and display verbal and physical aggression, disobedience, destructiveness, dishonesty, and/or theft. Lack of remorse and distrustfulness are also associated with conduct disorder. See also: "behavior disorders/emotional disturbance" and "oppositional defiant disorder".

Continuing Medical Education (CME) - Unit of credit earned by health care professionals by participating in educational activities.

Culturally Competent- The ability to interact effectively with people with different cultures, abilities and socio-economic backgrounds.

Deaf-Blindness -Deaf-blindness, or dual sensory impairment, is a combination of both visual and hearing impairments. An individual with deaf-blindness can experience severe communication, educational, and other developmental problems. A person with deaf-blindness cannot be accommodated by services focusing solely on visual impairments or solely on hearing impairments, so services must be specifically designed to assist individuals with deaf-blindness.

Deafness -Deafness can be defined as a total or partial inability to hear. An individual who is totally deaf is unable to hear with or without the use of a hearing aid, whereas a person who is partially deaf may be able to hear with the help of a hearing aid. Deafness can be genetic or also acquired through disease, most commonly from meningitis in the child or rubella in the woman during pregnancy.

Developmental Disabilities -A developmental disability is a severe and long lasting disability which is the result of a mental and/or physical impairment, occurs before age 22, is likely to continue indefinitely, reflects the person's need for specialized services and/or treatment, and results in substantial functional limitations in three or more areas. The areas include: self-care, self-direction, economic self-sufficiency, independent living, learning, receptive and expressive language, and mobility.

Developmental delay- a condition in which a young child fails to or is slow to achieve typical developmental milestones in the areas of motor skills, language, social skills, emotional regulation, cognition, and/or self-care. These children may be at a greater risk for a developmental disability; early intervention can help improve their prognosis or, in mild cases, help the child "catch up".

Down syndrome- a genetic condition caused by a duplication of the 21st chromosome. Symptoms include atypical facial features (such as slanted eyes and a flat profile), a predisposition for congenital heart disease, as well as some degree of intellectual and developmental delays. Also known as trisomy 21.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) - Devices/equipment/supplies a person with a disability uses in the home to aid in better quality of life.

Dysphagia- a disorder which characterized by difficulty in or a complete inability to swallow food, liquid, or saliva. As a result, dysphagia may lead to medical problems related to malnutrition.

Dyspraxia- a learning disability that hampers an individual's motor skills and the ability to carry out fine motor tasks, such as writing and personal grooming. Although dyspraxia does not affect a person's intelligence, it is often associated with disordered speech and learning difficulties.

Early Intervention -Early intervention is an attempt to locate, identify, and evaluate young children with developmental disabilities or developmental delays and provide services to counteract these disorders and facilitate the child's development. Every state has organizations that provide early intervention services.

Echolalia -Echolalia is the constant repeating or parroting of what has been said by others. Individuals with autism and Tourette syndrome commonly exhibit echolalia.

Eligibility vs. Entitlement- In Delaware, this occurs when a student is between 18 and 21 years of age. **Entitlement** (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act [IDEIA] 2014) and **Eligibility** (Rehabilitation Act/Section 504 and ADA) are different laws with different requirements for services. Whereas entitlement includes benefits for persons with disabilities based on law/statute (e.g. IDEA), eligibility refers to a set of benefits which are covered based on an individual with a disability meeting certain criteria.

Emerging Adult- A person between the ages of 12-30.

Epilepsy -Epilepsy is a physical condition that occurs when there is a sudden, brief disturbance in the function of the brain. This "disturbance" can alter an individual's consciousness, movements, or actions. The sudden change is referred to as an epileptic seizure. Most individuals with epilepsy can reduce or eliminate the risk of seizures through the regular use of appropriate medication.

Epilepsy- a disorder characterized by repeated and spontaneous episodes of disturbed brain function that cause changes in attention or behavior (seizures). Epileptic seizures are caused by abnormally excited electrical signals in the brain, and they can vary in degree of severity.

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder- (FASD): a wide range of mental and physical birth defects caused by a mother's consumption of alcohol during pregnancy. These defects can include intellectual disabilities, growth deficiencies, central nervous system dysfunction, facial abnormalities, and emotional/behavioral maladjustments.

Federal 5310 Program- In this program, formally known as the Elderly and disabled Specialized Transit Program (5310), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides capital grants to meet the transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities in areas where public mass transportation services are otherwise unavailable, insufficient or inappropriate. It enables non-profit organizations to obtain accessible vans and buses to provide those needed transportation services.

Fixed Route- Fixed route refers to a system of buses that are often wheelchair accessible and equipped with bike racks. Fixed route buses operate on specific routes at specified times during weekdays and on selected routes and times during weekends and holidays. Fixed route buses pick up and drop off individuals at designated bus stops and offer different types of services such as major corridor routes, crosstown routes, limited stop routes and express routes.

Fragile X Syndrome -Fragile X syndrome, also known as Martin-Bell syndrome, is a genetic disorder that is the most common form of inherited mental retardation. Individuals with this disorder often have distinctive physical features, such as a long face and large prominent ears. People with Fragile X syndrome experience some degree of mental retardation along with speech and language delays. In addition, 15-20% may also exhibit behaviors associated with autism.

Free Appropriate Public Education -According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), free appropriate public education is defined as special education and related services that: (1) are provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without charge; (2) meet the standards of the state educational agency; (3) include preschool, elementary, and secondary school education in the state involved; and (4) are provided in conformity with the child's individualized education plan. **Guardian:** A person appointed by the probate court to protect the property and/or wellbeing of one who does not have the capacity to protect his or her own interests.

Full Accessibility- A unit that is built to meet all requirements for an accessible unit as set by a national standard. These features should allow full use of a unit by most people with disabilities.

Grand Rounds- Lectures given in medical communities to provide continuing education to health care professionals.

Group Homes -Group homes are a housing option for individuals with developmental disabilities that allows them to live in residences within the community in a family-type setting. A small group of individuals with disabilities live together in a house and share household duties. The group home is usually supervised by live-in professionals or volunteer staff.

Guardian of the estate- A guardian who possesses any or all powers and rights with regard to the property of the individual.

Guardian of the person- A guardian who is responsible for the health, well-being, and personal needs of the individual and acts as his or her advocate.

Guardian of the person and the estate- A guardian who possesses any or all powers and rights with regard to the property of the individual, is responsible for the individual's health, well-being, and personal needs, and acts as his or her advocate.

Health Impairments -The term, health impairment, refers to any type of chronic illness that affects how a person lives his or her life. Common examples of health impairments are AIDS, cancer, diabetes, arthritis, etc.

Hearing Impairment -The term, hearing impairment, is used to describe any level of hearing loss, such as hard of hearing or deafness.

HL7 Data- Data type that secures information so it can be transferred electronically between users.

Hydrocephalus -Hydrocephalus refers to an abnormal accumulation of fluid (cerebrospinal fluid) within cavities, called ventricles, inside the brain. Hydrocephalus can be congenital, caused by complex genetic and environmental factors, or acquired from spina bifida, intraventricular hemorrhage, head trauma, meningitis, tumors and cysts. Individuals with hydrocephalus often experience mental and physical impairments and a variety of health problems.

Hyperactivity -Hyperactivity generally refers to a group of behavioral characteristics, such as aggressiveness, constant activity, impulsiveness, and distractibility. The actual behaviors displayed include: fidgeting, an inability to remain seated or still, excessive talking, and an inability to play quietly. Hyperactivity is commonly associated with attention deficit disorder.

Individual Development Account (IDA) - The IDA is an asset building tool designed to enable low-income families to save toward a targeted amount usually used for building assets in the form of home ownership, post-secondary education or small business ownership. In principal, IDAs work as matched savings accounts that supplement the savings of low-income households with matching funds drawn from a variety of private and public sources. Most IDA programs specify a maximum household income for eligibility which, depending on the program, can range from 200% below the poverty line to 80% of the area median income.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) – The U.S. Department of Education defines IDEA as follows:

“The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is the nation’s special education law. First enacted three decades ago, IDEA provides billions of dollars in federal funding to assist states and local communities in providing educational opportunities for

approximately six million students with varying degrees of disability who participate in special education.

In exchange for federal funding, IDEA requires states to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE). The statute also contains detailed due process provisions to ensure the provision of FAPE. Originally enacted in 1975, the Act responded to increased awareness of the need to educate children with disabilities and to judicial decisions requiring states to provide an education for children with disabilities if they provide an education for children without disabilities.

Part A of IDEA contains the general provisions, including the purposes of the Act and definitions. Part B, the most frequently discussed Part of the Act, contains provisions relating to the education of school-aged and preschool children, the funding formula, evaluations for services, eligibility determinations, Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and educational placements. It also contains detailed requirements for procedural safeguards (including the discipline provisions) as well as withholding of funds and judicial review. Part B also includes the Section 619 program, which provides services to children aged 3 through 5 years old.

Part C of IDEA provides early intervention and other services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families (from birth through age 3). These early intervention and other services are provided in accordance with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed in consultation between families of infants and toddlers with disabilities and the

appropriate state agency. Part C also provides grants to states to support these programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities.

Part D provides support for various national activities designed to improve the education of children with disabilities, including personnel preparation activities, technical assistance and special education research.”

Inclusion -In general, inclusion refers to a set of practices and beliefs that all children should be educated, regardless of disability, in their neighborhood school, and in age appropriate general education settings with appropriate supports and services.

Independent Living -The concept of independent living involves the belief that individuals with disabilities have the same rights and responsibilities as other people in society. Thus, services provided to the public should be accessible to persons with disabilities, and systems of support should be made available to help individuals with disabilities live within the community and lead more independent lives.

Individualized Education Plan (IEP) -Public Law 94-142 mandates that each child who receives special education services must have an individualized education plan. The IEP is the plan agreed upon by the school administrator, teacher, parents, and other relevant professionals (e.g., the person who administered the testing, therapists). The IEP is comprised of seven parts: (1) present level of functioning or performance, (2) annual goals, (3) short term instructional objectives or goals, (4) indication of any special services needed (e.g., speech & hearing clinic), (5) amount of time spent in regular education classroom, (6) when plan will begin, be reviewed, and end, and (7) evaluation of goals and objectives.

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) -Public Law 99-457 directs states to develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary program of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The law requires that an Individualized Family Service Plan is created to establish an agreement between families and professionals that the necessary resources will be provided to help the child and the family achieve their goals and satisfy their needs.

Individualized Program Plan (IPP)-An Individualized Program Plan is similar to an Individualized Family Service Plan except it is for individuals with disabilities who are over age three. The IPP identifies the preferred goals or outcomes of the individual and his/her family and lists objectives describing how these goals will be achieved (e.g., what services and types of supports will be used).

Individualized Transition Plan (ITP) -The Individualized Transition Plan is the part of a person's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that identifies the long range goals of the person in respect to life after school. Transition services are a coordinated set of activities that are designed to help a student with disabilities move from school to life after school. The person's life after school may include: post secondary education, vocational training, integrated employment, continuing and adult education, independent living, participation in the community, and other activities. The ITP indicates how the individual will be supported or helped to participate in his/her preferred activities and achieve his/her goals.

Institutions -Institutions are residential facilities designed to house and care for individuals with mental disabilities.

Intellectual Disability (ID) - Disability that impacts an individual's ability to learn in a similar way to their peers.

Interpreter- Professional person who assists a deaf person in communicating with hearing people.

IQ Scores -The intelligence quotient, or IQ, is a number used to express a person's relative intelligence. An intelligence test is used to compute an individual's IQ score. The majority of scores fall between 70 and 130, with a score above 130 considered gifted and a score below 70 considered mentally deficient. However, intelligence tests have been widely criticized for not accurately depicting an individual's mental capabilities.

Jitney- A jitney is a small and sometimes open bus that carries passengers over a regular route on a flexible schedule.

Learning Disability (LD) - A condition which impacts a person's ability to learn or retain information, and which requires additional support beyond a peer who does not have those needs.

Legal Guardianship- The process by which a person is determined to be incompetent to make their own decisions and has another adult appointed to make decisions on their behalf.

“Livability”- Livability means a home has several additional features beyond what would be considered Basic Access. A “livable” home also has at least one no-step entry and 32 inch door clearance on the first floor. In addition, it has a full bathroom and a bedroom (or a room that can be used as a bedroom) on the first floor so a person who has mobility impairment can live comfortably on the first floor.

Long Term Care (LTC) Plus Medicaid Services- State Medicaid services which includes reimbursement for additional supports such as home nursing and private duty nursing or aides.]

Major life activities- Functions such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, and participating in community activities (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990).

Medicaid-a jointly funded, Federal-State health insurance program for low-income and needy people. It covers children, the aged, blind, and/or disabled and other people who are eligible to receive federally assisted income maintenance payments.

Medicare- the federal health insurance program that covers most people age 65 and older. Some younger people who are disabled or who have permanent kidney failure are also eligible for coverage.

Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) - An insurance company contracted with the state Medicaid office to provide insurance following the Medicaid guidelines, but using the insurance company's staff for implementation to Medicaid-eligible individuals.

Mental Health Condition- A condition that impacts a person's emotional and/or behavioral state and requires support or management by a physician.

Mobility impairment: Disability that affects movement ranging from gross motor skills such as walking to fine motor movement involving manipulation of objects by hand.

Mobility Manager- This is a person who can train students on transportation options and transportation skills including the use of various modes of travel such as fixed route buses, Paratransit, rail, air and taxi.

Money Follows the Person (MFP) - This program is part of a comprehensive, coordinated strategy, in collaboration with stakeholders, to make widespread changes to long-term care support systems. It assists states in their efforts to reduce their reliance on institutional care, while developing community-based long-term care opportunities, enabling the elderly and persons with disabilities and/or special health care needs to fully participate in their communities.

Multiple sclerosis (MS): a chronic neurological disorder caused by an individual's immune system attacking the central nervous system (CNS). It is characterized by a wide range of symptoms, such as paralysis, numbness, cognitive dysfunction, and mood disorders, and these symptoms can vary in severity from mild to severe.

NCQA Standard 5c62- The National Committee for Quality Assurance's standard addressing health care transition outcomes.

Non-profit- A non-profit organization (NPO) is an organization that uses surplus revenue to achieve goals rather than distributing them as profits or dividends. NPOs are governed by boards or controlling members. Many have paid staff and management, but some operate with volunteers and unpaid executives who receive a nominal amount. While non-profit organizations are permitted to generate surplus revenue, that revenue must be retained by the organization for self-preservation, expansion or to accomplish goals.

Oppositional defiant disorder (ODD): a behavior disorder of early to middle childhood characterized by extreme and chronic rule-breaking, angry outbursts, and spitefulness. Children with ODD may be at risk for developing conduct disorder as they grow up. See also: "behavior disorders/emotional disturbance" and "conduct disorder".

Paratransit- Paratransit is an alternative mode of flexible passenger transportation for people with disabilities and the elderly that does not follow fixed routes or schedules. Typically, minibuses are used to provide Paratransit services, but accessible taxis and jitneys can also be important providers.

Paraplegia -Paraplegia is paralysis of the legs and lower part of the body. Paraplegia often involves loss of sensation as well as loss of movement. It is usually caused by injury or disease in the lower spinal cord, or brain disorders, such as cerebral palsy.

Parental Involvement- Refers to participations of parents in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about learning and school activities; ensures that parents play an integral role in their child's learning, are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school, are full partners in their child's education, and are included in decision making about their child's education.

Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) - A team-based health care delivery model led by a physician that provides comprehensive and continuous medical care to patients with the goal of obtaining maximized health outcomes.

Payee- a person who receives and disburses the ward's social security income or SSI outside of the jurisdiction of the court. These funds are monitored by the Social Security Administration. A person may also serve as payee for Veteran's and Railroad Retirement benefits.

Pediatrician/Pediatric Care- A physician trained to work with children from birth through 22 years old.

Pervasive developmental disorder (PDD)- an umbrella term referring to a group of disorders that involve delays or impairments in communication and social skills, including autism, Asperger's syndrome, Rett syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder, and pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS). See also: "autism spectrum disorder", "Asperger's syndrome", "Rett syndrome".

Physical or mental impairment- Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genito-urinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990).

Physical Disability- A condition which impacts a person's body and causes limitations as compared to a peer without that condition.

Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS)- a genetic disorder caused by missing genetic material on chromosome 15. It is characterized by low muscle tone, shortness of stature, behavioral problems, obsessive-compulsive behaviors, intellectual disabilities, incomplete sexual maturity, and a relentless appetite. Individuals with PWS are also at a greater risk of developing complications due to overeating and obesity.

Probate- a matter relating to or involving guardianship, the probate of a will, the estate of a decedent or a trust.

Probate court- a court with statutory authority to hear probate matters.

Protected Class- A protected class is a term used in United States anti-discrimination law. It describes characteristics or factors that cannot be targeted for discrimination and/or harassment. Some examples are race, ethnicity, sex, color, age, disability status and religion.

Quadriplegia- Quadriplegia is the paralysis of all four limbs. (see paraplegia)

Self-determination- is a concept reflecting the belief that all individuals have the right to direct their own lives. Students who have self-determination skills have a stronger chance of being successful in making the transition to adulthood, including employment and independence

Sensory Impairment- A disability that affects touch, sight and/or hearing.

Sign language- Manual communication commonly used by deaf. The gestures or symbols in sign language are organized in a linguistic way. Each individual gesture is called a sign. Each sign has three distinct parts; the handshape, the position of the hands, and the movement of the hands. American Sign Language (ASL) is the most commonly used sign language in the United States. Deaf people from different countries speak different sign languages.

Specific Learning Disability- Disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in difficulties listening, thinking, speaking, reading, writing, spelling, or doing mathematical calculations. Frequent limitations include hyperactivity, distractibility, emotional instability, visual and/or auditory perception difficulties and/or motor limitations, depending on the type(s) of learning disability.

Special Health Care Need (SHCN) - A health condition that requires health care professionals' management beyond that of a typical person's medical needs.

“Special School”- A school designed for children with complex educational needs. Students may have learning difficulties, physical disabilities, etc. Special schools provide specialized supports and modifications for these students which are not commonly available in a typical school setting.

Speech impairment- Problems in communication and related areas such as oral motor function, ranging from simple sound substitutions to the inability to understand or use language or use the oral-motor mechanism for functional speech.

Spina Bifida -Spina Bifida refers to an incomplete closure in the spinal column during prenatal development. There are three types of spina bifida: (1) *spina bifida occulta* is very common and is associated with an opening in one or more of the vertebrae, but no damage to the spinal cord, (2) *meningocele* is present when the protective covering around the spinal cord is pushed through an opening in the vertebrae, but the spinal cord remains intact, (3) *myelomeningocele* is the most severe form and occurs when the spinal cord protrudes through the back. The term, spina bifida, is most often used to indicate the most severe form of the disorder, *myelomeningocele*. It can cause weakness or paralysis below the area of protrusion as well as a loss of bowel and bladder control. Also, spina bifida is commonly associated with hydrocephalus.

Text 4 Baby- A Department of Public Health (DPH) campaign which uses text messages to alert pregnant women and new mothers about health-related information, for both themselves and for their babies.

Transition- The purposeful, planned movement between systems.

Transition Coordinator (TC) – an individual, who plans, coordinates, delivers, and evaluates transition education and services at a school or system level, in conjunction with other educators, families, students and representatives of community organizations.

Transportation Barriers- The absence of accessible dependable affordable transportation

Universal Design- An approach to design that incorporates products, building features and elements which, to the greatest extent possible, can be used by everyone. This may include features such as lever door handles, faucets and switch plates, and a covered no-step entry for example.

Representative payee- an arrangement by which a governmental agency may appoint a substitute person to receive federal funds of behalf of a recipient who, by reason of physical or mental disability, is unable to manage the funds.

Respite care- short term or temporary care of individuals with disabilities provided so that their family members or guardians can take a break from the day to day stress of care giving, lasting from a few hours to three months. Unlike day care, respite care may also include overnight care.

Rett syndrome- a pervasive developmental disorder caused by several mutations on the X chromosome. It is characterized by a short period of typical development (six to eighteen months) followed by a period of regression and the emergence of autism-like symptoms. Rett syndrome can affect an individual's cognitive and social skills, sensory processing, mobility, and mood, and it may also cause physical problems such as heart malfunction and digestive difficulties.

Sensory integration dysfunction (SID)- a disorder causing abnormalities in the way an individual's brain processes sensory stimuli. It is characterized by unusual responses to visual, auditory, olfactory, tactile, and vestibular sensations. Some common manifestations of SID include sensitivity to textures of clothes or foods, a strong dislike of being hugged or touched, a fear of certain noises, and constant motions such as rocking or spinning. Also known as sensory processing disorder (SPD).

Sotos syndrome- a genetic disorder caused by a missing or altered gene in chromosome 5. It

is characterized by physical overgrowth during the first years of life, low muscle tone, delayed motor, cognitive and social development, and impaired speech. Also known as cerebral gigantism.

Special education students- students with educational needs that cannot be met in a regular classroom without certain modifications or special arrangements. These students can include those with physical or mental disabilities as well as those who are gifted and talented.

Spina bifida- a birth defect caused by the failure of the fetus' spine to close properly during the first month of pregnancy. It is characterized by mild to severe impairments in mobility, cognition, and/or learning. Individuals with spina bifida are also at a high risk for developing hydrocephalus ("water on the brain").

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)- a federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues (not Social Security taxes). It is designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people who have little or no income and to provide cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

Tourette syndrome- a neurological disorder characterized by frequent, involuntary, and repetitive movements and vocalizations (tics). It is also associated with obsessive thoughts and compulsive behavior.

Ward- an incapacitated person who has been placed in the care, custody and supervision of a guardian.

Williams syndrome: a disorder caused by missing genetic material on chromosome 7. It is characterized by distinct facial features (smaller sized heads, puffiness around the eyes, small chins), poor muscle tone, premature puberty, hypersensitive hearing, and cardiovascular problems. Individuals with Williams syndrome may be gifted in their use of language while simultaneously being delayed in other intellectual domains; they also tend to be highly outgoing and show excessive friendliness.