



**EDUCATION-ARY**  
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**Educational Acronyms**

AACTE	American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education	ASCA	American School Counselor Association
AASA	American Association of School Administrators	ASCD	Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
AASD	Atlanta Area School for the Deaf	ASL	American Sign Language
ACA	American Counseling Association	ASP	After School Program
ACE	American Council on Education	AYP	Adequate Yearly Progress
ACT	American College Testing	BD	Behavior Disorder
ACT	American Association of Classroom Teachers	BOE	Board of Education
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	CACREP	Council on Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder	CAP	Corrective Action Plan
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	CBA	Curriculum-Basic Assessment
AECT	Association for Educational Communications and Technology	CC	Childcare
AERA	American Educational Research Association	CCSSO	Council of Chief State School Officers
AFT	American Federation of Teachers	CDA	Child Development Associate
AP	Advanced Placement	CES	Comprehensive Evaluation System
ARCHE	Atlanta Regional Consortium for Higher Education	CEU	Continuing Education Unit
		CEISMC	Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing at Georgia Institute of Technology

CIS	Communities in Schools	ESEA	Elementary and Secondary Education Act
CAN	Comprehensive Needs Assessment		
CPIR	Certified Personnel Information Report	ESOL	English to Speakers of Other Languages
CQT	Committee on Quality Teaching	ETS	Educational Testing Service
CRCT	Criterion-Referenced Competency Test	FAPE	Free and Appropriate Public Education
CCSSO	Council of Chief State School Officers	FRL	Free and Reduced Lunch
CYCC	Children and Youth Coordinating Council	FTE	Full-time Equivalent
D/B	Deaf/Blind	FY	Fiscal Year
DECAL	Department of Early Care and Learning	G-CASE	Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education
DFACS	Department of Family and Children Services	GACE	Georgia Advisory Council on Education
DOE	Department of Education	GACE	Georgia Association for Community Education
DHR	Department of Human Resources	GACIS	Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instructional Supervisors
DJJ	Department of Juvenile Justice		
DOT	Department of Transportation	GACCE	Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives
DTAE	Department of Technical and Adult Education	GACTE	Georgia Association of Colleges of Teacher Educators
EBD	Emotional and Behavioral Disorder	GaDOE	Georgia Department of Education
ECC	Education Coordinating Council	GAE	Georgia Association of Educators
ECE	Early Childhood Education	GAEA	Georgia Art Education Association
ECS	Education Commission of the States	GAEL	Georgia Association of Educational Leaders
EIP	Early Intervention Program		
ELC	Education Leaders Council	GAESP	Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals
EOCT	End-of-Course Test	GAICTE	Georgia Association of Independent Colleges of Teacher Education
ERIC	Education Resources Information Center		

GAMEIS	Georgia Association of Managers of Educational Information Systems	GHSA	Georgia High School Association
GAMSP	Georgia Association of Middle School Principals	GHS GT	Georgia High School Graduation Test
GaPIE	Georgia Association of Partners in Education	GHSWT	Georgia High School Writing Test
GASBO	Georgia Association of School Business Officials	G-KAP-R	Georgia Kindergarten Assessment Program – Revised
GASCD	Georgia Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development	GIMS	Georgia Initiative in Math and Science
GASP	Georgia Association of School Psychologists	GITEA	Georgia Industrial Technology Education Association
GASSP	Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals	GLC	Georgia Learning Connections
GBST	Georgia Basic Skills Test	GLISI	Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement
GCATT	Georgia Center for Advanced Telecommunications Technology	GLRS	Georgia Learning Resources System
GCSTME	Georgia Coalition for Science, Technology and Mathematics Education	GMEA	Georgia Music Educators Association
GCTM	Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics	GMSA	Georgia Middle School Association
GDITT	Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism	GOSA	Office of Student Achievement
GDPS	Georgia Department of Public Safety	GPA	Grade Point Average
GED	General Education Development (Diploma)	GPB	Georgia Public Broadcasting
GERA	Georgia Educational Research Association	GPEE	Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
GFIE	Georgia Foundation for the Improvement of Education	GPPF	Georgia Public Policy Foundation
GHEA	Georgia Home Education Association	GPS	Georgia Performance Standards
GHP	Governor’s Honors Program	GSA, Inc.	Great Schools Atlanta, Inc.
		GSAMS	Georgia Statewide Academic and Medical System
		GSBA	Georgia School Boards Association
		GSCA	Georgia School Counselors Association
		GSCI	Georgia School Council Institute

GSDC	Georgia Staff Development Council	IEP	Individualized Education Plan
GSEI	Georgia Superintendent Evaluation Instrument	INTASC	Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium
GSFC	Georgia Student Finance Commission	IQ	Intelligence Quotient
GSFSA	Georgia School Food Service Association	ISS	In-school Suspension
GSP	Georgia Scholars Program	ITBS	Iowa Test of Basic Skills
GSPRA	Georgia School Public Relations Association	IU	Instructional Unit
GSSA	Georgia School Superintendents Association	KIPP	Knowledge is Power Program
GSSIS	Georgia Statewide Student Information System	LBOE	Local Board of Education
GTAPP	Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program	LD	Learning Disability
GTEP	Georgia Teachers Evaluation Program	LEA	Local Education Agency
GTFC	Georgia Teaching Force Center	LEP	Limited English Proficient
GVA	Georgia Vocational Association	LRE	Least Restrictive Environment
GYSTC	Georgia Youth Science and Technology Center	MAPMIS	Metro Area Plus Managers of Information Systems
H/H	Hospital/Homebound	MCR	Modified Compliance Review
HEA	Higher Education Act	MGWA	Middle Grades Writing Assessment
HEIR	Home Education Information Resource	MIS	Management Information System
HOPE	Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally	MOD	Modification
HOUSSE	Highly Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation	MoID	Moderate Intellectual Disability
IB	International Baccalaureate	NAEP	National Assessment of Educational Progress (National Report Card)
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	NAES	National Alliance for Effective Schools
		NAESP	National Association of Elementary School Principals
		NASBE	National Association of State Boards of Education
		NASDC	New American Schools Development Corporation

NASSP	National Association of Secondary School Principals	NSPRA	National School Public Relations Association
NBC	National Board Certification	O.C.G.A.	Official Code of Georgia
NBCC	National Board for Certified Counselors	OECE	Office of Early Care and Education
NBCT	National Board Certified Teachers	OERI	Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education
NBPTS	National Board of Professional Teaching Standards	OMB	Office of Management and Budget
NCATE	National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education	OME	Office of Migrant Education
NCES	National Center for Education Statistics	OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs
NCLB	No Child Left Behind Act	OSS	Out-Of-School Suspension
NCTQ	National Council on Teacher Quality	PAGE	Professional Association of Georgia Educators
NEA	National Education Association	PDP	Professional Development Plan
NGA	National Governor’s Association	PDK	Phi Delta Kappan
NGSP	Next Generation Schools Project	PEC	Program for Exceptional Children
NHSA	National Head Start Association	PEN	Public Education Network
NICHD	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	PfP	Pay for Performance
NIH	National Institutes of Health	PEP	Parents Educating Parents
NPTA	National Congress of Parents and Teachers Association	PLC	Performance Learning Center
NRT	Norm-Referenced Test	PSAT	Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test
NSBA	National School Boards Association	PSC	Professional Standards Commission
NSBP	National School Breakfast Program	PSO	Postsecondary Options Program
NSF	National Science Foundation	PTA	Parent Teacher Association
NSLP	National School Lunch Program	PTO	Parent Teacher Organization
		PTSA	Parent-Teacher-Student Association
		QBE	Quality Basic Education

QCC	Quality Core Curriculum	SSS	Student Support Service
RBOC	Regional Educational Service Agency Board of Control	SST	Student Support Team
REP	Remedial Education Program	SSW	School Social Worker
RESA	Regional Educational Service Agency	STAR	Student Teacher Achievement Recognition
RYDC	Regional Youth Detention Center	STEPS	Systemic Transition to Education in Public Schools
S-T-W	School to Work	SWD	Students with Disabilities
SACS	Southern Association of Colleges and Schools	SYDC	State Youth Development Campus
SAP	State Advisory Professional Association	TAP	Test of Achievement and Proficiency
SAPA	Student Assistance Professionals Association	(GA) TAP	Teacher Alternative Preparation Program
SBD	Severe Behavior Disorder	TAS	Targeted Assistance School
SBOE	State Board of Education	TCT	Teacher Certification Test
SDU	Staff Development Unit	TESOL	Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages
SED	Serious Emotional Disturbance	TFA	Teach for America
SEDL	Southwest Educational Development Laboratory	TIMSS	Third International Math and Science Study
SEF	Southern Education Foundation	TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language
SERVE	Southeastern Regional Vision for Education	TOTY	Teacher of the Year
SLEP	Secondary Level English Proficiency Test	TRS (GA)	Teachers Retirement System (of Georgia)
SLP	School Lunch Program	TSS	Teacher Support Specialist
SREB	Southern Regional Education Board	USCO	Unsafe School Choice Option
SRC	Southern Regional Council	VECC	Vocational Education Curriculum Center
SRO	School Resource Officer		

# Education Dictionary

## -A-

**A Plus Education Reform Act of 2000 (H.B. 1187):** Education legislation drafted by Governor Roy Barnes that took effect in April 2000. The law lowered class sizes, developed an accountability framework with state criterion-referenced tests as the measurement system, created school councils and implemented early intervention programs.

**Ability Grouping:** A way to organize students of like abilities that allows them to remain together for a short period of time – part of the school day, a few days or a few weeks.

**Acceleration:** To enable a student to complete a course in less than usual time; to hasten progress or development.

**Accountability:** Efforts to hold schools, districts, educators, students and/or parents responsible for achievement test results.

**Accreditation:** The process by which an organization sanctions teacher-education programs.

**Achievement Gap:** The gap in tested skills between students of different ethnicities and/or from low socioeconomic classes and their majority/privileged/higher-class peers.

**Achievement Test:** Standardized test that measures a student's knowledge in specific academic areas such as reading, language, mathematics, social studies and science.

**Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP):** An annual measure of student participation and achievement of statewide assessments and other academic indicators.

**Adequacy:** Sufficient funds for schools to teach all - or at least all, but the most severely disabled – students to state and district proficiency standards.

**Advanced Placement (AP) Exams:** Tests administered by the College Board in various subjects such as European history, calculus and foreign language. High school students take these exams to receive college credit.

**After School Programs:** Programs established by schools and community organizations to provide safe places and constructive activities to students whose parents cannot be at home after school. Research has linked after school programs to reductions in school discipline problems, teen pregnancy, drug use, and violence and drop-out rates.

**Alternative School:** A specialized school created for students who function better in a different environment than a regular classroom. Alternative schools range from institutions geared towards students with behavioral problems to magnet schools created for a special group of talented or interested students to study a limited curriculum.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** Federal law passed in 1990 that prohibits the discrimination against any disabled individual. Applies to both employment and educational services.

**At-Risk Student:** A child with factors that may negatively influence his/her achievement including poverty, disabilities, limited-English proficiency, and/or abusive or dysfunctional home environments.

**Authentic Assessment:** A type of student evaluation that requires a student to perform a task rather than select an answer from a ready-made list (i.e. doing a science project or writing a paper). (See Performance Assessment)

## -B-

**Balanced Calendar:** Modified calendar that includes several breaks during the semester. Students spend the same number of days in class as those on traditional calendars, but breaks are more frequent. Intersessions are shorter than those in year-round schools. (See Intersessions)

**Below Grade Level:** Any student performing below the achievement level on a standardized test for his/her grade level. Below grade level students are eligible for early intervention programs or remediation.

**Benchmarks:** Examples of performances that serve as standards against which students' achievement is scored.

**Block Scheduling:** Reconfiguring the school day by increasing the length of the traditional class period and decreasing the number of class periods a day. For example, a 4x4 schedule allows students to take four 90-minute classes a day and complete them in a semester rather than a full year. Blocked courses allow students more time for laboratory or project-centered work, field trips and special assemblies or speakers.

**Blue Ribbon Schools Program:** A national program established by the U.S. Department of Education in 1982 to honor outstanding public and private schools across the country and share information on the best practices among schools.

**Business/Education Partnerships:** School-reform coalitions formed by private businesses and schools or districts. Partnerships range from individual school partnerships to systemic school reform efforts.

## -C-

**Carnegie Unit:** One unit of credit awarded in grades 9 through 12 for a minimum of 150 hours of instruction during the regular school year or 120 hours of instruction during summer school.

**Certificate of Performance:** Certificate for students who do not pass the Georgia High School Graduation Test, but meet all other graduation requirements. Students who leave school with a certificate of performance may take the graduation test again as many times as necessary to qualify for a high school diploma.

**Charter School:** A school which has a contract with the local and state Boards of Education to improve student achievement by having greater flexibility in designing programs to improve student learning and in meeting local, state and national education goals. Charter schools are exempt from most state and local rules, policies and regulations, but they must be approved by local and state boards of education.

**Class Rank:** The relative position of a student in his or her graduating class, determined by Grade Point Average (GPA) as computed by the LBOE.

**College Board:** Nonprofit organization that administers the SAT and AP programs.

**Communities in Schools (CIS):** A community-based organization that helps children succeed in school and prepare for life. Through partnerships with schools, public officials, businesses, parents and the community, the organization provides numerous services to prevent children from dropping out of school.

**Community College:** Public two-year institution supported by the local community. Community colleges generally offer two types of curricula: transfer - the first two years of work for a bachelor's degree – and terminal – vocational training for employment.

**Comprehensive School Health Program:** An organized set of policies, procedures and activities designed to protect and promote the health and well-being of students and staff which has traditionally included health services, health education and an emphasis on a healthy school environment.

**Confidence Interval:** The range within which a student's true score is likely to fall. Confidence intervals provide more accurate estimates of student performance than raw test scores.

**Cooperative Learning:** An instructional method in which students of all performance levels work together in small groups toward a group goal.

**Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT):** Tests administered to Georgia students to evaluate students' acquisition of skills and knowledge described in Georgia's Quality Core Curriculum (QCC). In grades one through eight, tests are given in reading, math and language arts. In grades three through eight, tests are also given in science and social studies. Reading and math test scores are used in considering the promotion of students in grades three, five and eight. This began in the 2003-2004 school year. CRCT scores produce information on students, classrooms, schools, systems and state achievement in education.

**Criterion-Referenced Tests (CRT):** Tests that compare a student's performance to a specific standard of acceptable performance instead of the performance of other students.

**Critical Thinking:** Mental process of acquiring information and evaluating it to reach a logical conclusion.

**Cultural Diversity:** Recognizing that students come from a variety of ethnic, geographic, economic and religious backgrounds.

**Curriculum:** The content of an instructional program.

**Curriculum Based Assessment (CBA):** Tests developed by the Georgia Department of Education to measure student achievement on a broad range of the state's Quality Core Curriculum (QCC). The Georgia High School Graduation Test is a CBA.

**-D-**

**Data-Driven School Improvement:** The use of achievement test scores and data to develop strategies for school improvement. Teachers and administrators constantly monitor scores on achievement tests and other assessments to measure students' progress.

**Decentralization:** Transfer of school policymaking and decision-making authority from federal to state level, from state level to districts or local schools, or from LBOEs to individual schools.

**Developmentally Appropriate Practice:** Any activity involving young children (birth to age 8) that is based on knowledge of the stages of child development, understanding that each child is unique and each child's experiences should match his or her developing abilities.

**Diagnostic Test:** Intensive, in-depth evaluation of a student's skills in a specific area. Diagnostic tests are used to determine the specific learning needs of individual students.

**Disaggregated Data:** Data that is broken down by subgroups of students. For instance, rather than simply reporting the percentage of students who passed the test, the disaggregated data might include the percentage who passed the test by gender, race, age, and language proficiency.

**Distance Learning:** Delivery of instruction via multimedia computers, satellite or teleconferencing when the teacher is in one place and the students in another.

**Drop-out Rate:** A calculation determined by student records of those who leave school between grades 7 - 12 and 9 - 12 for reasons including marriage, expulsion, financial hardship/job, incarceration/juvenile justice issues, low grades/school failure, and the military.

**Drug-Free School Zones:** Drug-free areas around schools created by the U.S. Congress and state legislatures in the 1980s. People convicted of possession or use of illegal drugs in these areas are subject to increased legal penalties.

**-E-**

**E-Learning:** Use of the technology, especially computers, to enhance education and learning. This technique is commonly associated with distance-learning.

**E-Rate:** Reduced rate for Internet access in public schools and libraries under the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Eligibility is based on a school's percentage of free and reduced lunch students (poverty status). This is an effort to close the technology gap between wealthy, suburban and urban and rural schools with less resources.

**Early Intervention Programs (EIP):** Programs provided from kindergarten through the fifth grade. These programs provide specialized instruction in smaller classes to students who are performing below grade level.

**Education for Handicapped Children Act (EHA):** Law passed in 1975 that states that special needs children have the right to a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. Revised in 1990 to become the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

**Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA):** Federal law passed in 1965 that focuses on children from high-poverty communities and students at risk of education failure. The Act authorizes Title I, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Title VII programs and was reauthorized in 2002 as No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

**Emotional and Behavioral Disorders (EBD):** Disorders characterized by consistently aggressive, impulsive or withdrawn behavior (i.e. schizophrenia). EBDs impair personal, social, academic and vocational skills.

**End-of-Course Tests (EOCT):** Assessments for high school students in core subjects to be determined by the Georgia Board of Education. The tests will measure students' acquisition of skills and knowledge described in the Georgia Quality Core Curriculum.

**English Immersion:** Instruction for bilingual students that is entirely in English. Teachers deliver lessons in simplified English, so students can learn English and other academic subjects.

**English as a Second Language (ESOL):** Most commonly includes immersion as well as support to individuals in their native languages. Classes are typically composed of students who speak many different languages, but are not fluent in English. They may attend classes for only a portion of every day to work strictly on English skills or attend for a full day and learn both academics and English.

**Enrichment:** Programs intended to supplement the regular academic curriculum to keep students interested in learning.

**Equalization Grants:** State funding to provide additional assistance to the poorer school districts. Equalization funding aims to reduce the disparities as to how much can be raised through local tax dollars between the wealthiest and poorest school districts in the state.

**Equity:** Equal distribution of funding, technology, facilities, services and equal education opportunities to different schools and groups of students.

**Exceptional Learners:** Students with an IQ in the bottom (mentally challenged) or top (gifted) three percent of the population or who have other physical or mental differences that affect learning. All exceptional learners receive special education.

## -F-

**Family Connection:** A partnership among Georgia communities and three state agencies – Department of Education, Department of Human Resources, Department of Medical Assistance – that focuses on children and families at risk.

**Free Lunch Eligibility:** Any child at a participating school may purchase a meal under the National School Lunch Act of 1946. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals, for which students can be charged no more than 40 cents. (For the period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006, 130 percent of the poverty level is \$25,155 for a family of four; 185 percent is \$35,798. (quoted from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch/-food and nutrition service>).

**Full-Time Equivalent (FTE):** The method of allocating state funds to local school systems. Systems are reimbursed according to a weighted formula that funds the program according to the cost necessary to provide the program.

## -G-

**Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT):** Passage required by high school students to receive a high school diploma. Covers content in mathematics, language arts, science and social studies. Performance levels are reported at the pass and pass plus levels. A score of 500 is needed to pass each section of the Graduation Test. The pass plus scale scores are 538 or greater for English language arts and 535 or greater for math.

**Georgia High School Writing Test (GHS WT):** Administered to all 11th grade students. Students are asked to produce a response to a persuasive writing prompt.

**Georgia Kindergarten Assessment Program-Revised (GKAP-R):** A test administered to kindergarten students in Georgia to determine whether they are ready for first grade. Students are evaluated in the areas of literacy, mathematics and social/emotional development through one-on-one, small group and large group instructional settings throughout the year.

**Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education (GP EE):** Founded in 1990 by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Economic Developers Association, the Partnership consists of business, education, community and government leaders who share a vision of improved education. Working to be Georgia's foremost change agent in education, the non-profit, non-partisan organization takes lead roles in efforts to shape policy and reform education. The mission of the Partnership is to inform and influence Georgia leaders through research and non-partisan advocacy to impact education policies and practices for the improvement of student achievement.

**Georgia Schools of Excellence Program:** Statewide program that works in conjunction with the Blue Ribbon Schools Program. The program recognizes outstanding Georgia public and private schools and nominates them for the national program.

**Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program (GTAPP):** College coursework and supervised hands-on experience for individuals who hold college degrees and wish to teach in grades K-12, but who have not completed a traditional teacher preparation program.

**Gifted:** A term used to describe a student who demonstrates a high level of ability and who needs special instructional services to achieve at a level equal to his/her ability. Gifted students have IQ scores in the top three percent of the population.

**Governor's Office of Student Achievement (OSA):** Formerly known as the Office of Education Accountability (OEA), was established to improve student achievement and school completion in Georgia. The OSA will produce annual accountability report cards for K-12 public schools and post-secondary education institutions.

**Grade Inflation:** Grading in which teachers give students higher grades than earned resulting in the perception of many high-achieving students.

## -H-

**Head Start:** Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive child development programs that serve children from birth to age 5, pregnant women, and their families. They are child-focused programs and have the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families. (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/about/index.htm>)

**Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally (HOPE):** Georgia's unique scholarship program that rewards students with financial assistance in degree, diploma, and certificate programs at eligible Georgia public and private colleges and universities, and public technical colleges. Since the HOPE Program began in 1993, more than \$3 billion in HOPE funds from the Georgia Lottery has been awarded to more than 900,000 students attending Georgia's colleges, universities, and technical colleges (Georgia Student Finance Commission).

**Heterogeneous Grouping:** Students of varying ability levels are placed in the same learning environment. There is some evidence that the peer learning effects created by this mixed-ability grouping largely influence student achievement.

**High Stakes Testing:** Making a decision based on a single evaluation or test. For example, a third grade student cannot be promoted to fourth grade unless he or she passes the CRCT Reading Test. For schools and systems, student performance on one test may determine whether staff will receive salary or funding increases, interventions or sanctions.

**Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS):** The thought processes beyond acquiring and understanding facts; they include using facts, taking ideas apart, creating new ideas and evaluating them.

**Highly Qualified Teacher:** A teacher is considered Highly Qualified when he or she meets the requirements of (1) obtaining an academic minimum of a bachelor's degree, (2) obtaining a full state certification or licensure, and (3) formally demonstrates a high level of competency in the subject taught.

**Home Schooling:** An alternative education form in which parents/guardians bypass the public school system and teach their children at home. One key idea is that curriculum can be customized by parents. Parents must have at least a high school diploma to be eligible.

**Homogeneous Grouping:** A way to organize students with similar ability levels in the same class.

**HOUSSE (Highly Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation):** A rubric format that is used by experienced teachers to demonstrate that they meet the highly qualified provisions of NCLB. Teachers must demonstrate their mastery of content knowledge via documented improvements in student achievement in the specific content area, via professional development, and other state-defined criteria.

-I-

**In Loco Parentis:** “In the place of a parent.” Legal requirement that a teacher act towards a pupil as a parent could be expected to act. Teachers and schools can be held legally liable for anything that happens to children at school.

**In-Service Workshop:** Workshops attended by teachers on various topics pertaining to education. This is a form of staff development.

**Inclusion:** Term used when special education or ESOL students receive educational services in a general education classroom setting. The students are included in the regular education program rather than being served in individual education classes.

**Independent School:** A private school that is not part of a school system and is funded by tuition and private grants. It must hold a nonprofit status and be accredited by a state or regional education association.

**Individualized Education Plan (IEP):** A plan developed by a student’s parents and teachers that outlines the student’s program of study and the particular education services the child receives.

**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):** A law passed in 1990 that requires public schools to provide a free and appropriate public education to disabled school-aged children ages three through 21.

**Intelligence Quotient (IQ) Tests:** Tests that measure a person’s mental capacity. IQ tests are highly controversial because critics claim the tests only measure a narrow band of intellectual strengths and are biased against minorities. The IQs of about 95 percent of the population are between 70 and 130. Below 70 is considered retarded and above 130 is considered gifted.

**Intersessions:** The breaks between sessions in year-round (alternative calendar) schools. Intersessions provide time for remediation and enrichment and allow students who fall behind to get additional instruction.

**Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS):** Test used to fulfill Georgia law mandating that a nationally norm-referenced test be administered annually to students in grades 3,5, and 8. This test allows for a national comparison as students across the country use this assessment.

## -L-

**Learning Disability (LD):** A term used in special education to describe a disorder in one of the basic psychological processes. These students may have difficulty in listening, thinking, speaking, writing, spelling or doing mathematical calculations.

**Least Restrictive Environment (LRE):** A federal procedural safeguard that requires children with disabilities to be educated to the maximum extent appropriate with students who are not disabled.

**Limited-English-Proficient (LEP) Students:** Students whose first language is other than English and who have not yet mastered English.

## -M-

**Magnet School:** A school with strong emphasis in a particular subject area (i.e. music, science, drama, math). Students may be selected through an application process instead of being assigned based on residence.

**Mainstreaming:** Moving a special education student from a special environment into the regular school environment.

**Master Teachers:** Experienced teachers who mentor new teachers, or teachers who are having difficulties in the classroom, to help them become more effective.

**Master Teacher Certification:** Master Teacher certification will recognize teachers of distinction. Only those teachers demonstrating a standard of advanced proficiency in their subject area with documented evidence of student academic achievement will be able to earn the Master Teacher credential. (American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence)

**Media Center:** School library and technology resource center.

**Medium-Stakes Testing:** Tests with some consequences attached to them, however not as severe as high-stakes tests. The EOCT is an example of medium-stakes tests in Georgia.

**Mentally Challenged:** Students with an IQ in the bottom three percent of the population.

**Merit Pay:** When salary compensation is directly related to the achievement of students taught.

**Middle Grades Writing Assessment (MGWA):** Test administered in eighth grade that consists of an evaluation of the student's response to an assigned narrative, persuasive or expository prompt.

**Migrant Education:** Education programs established to meet the needs of children of farm laborers, who often move from school to school.

**Mildly Mentally Handicapped (MiMH) and Moderately Mentally Handicapped (MoMH):** Terms used in special education to describe students who have below average learning abilities.

**Multicultural Education:** Inclusion on the curriculum of the contributions of many ethnic, geographic, economic and religious cultures. (See Cultural Diversity)

-N-

**National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP):** Often referred to as the National Report Card. National testing program administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Reading and mathematics tests are given to fourth, eighth, and twelfth grade students nationwide. NAEP reports student performance as average scale scores and by achievement level. Average scale scores reflect the performance of test takers both as a whole and in groups (i.e. by gender, race, etc.). NAEP has three achievement levels: basic (partial mastery), proficient (solid academic performance) and advanced (superior academic performance).

**National Board Certification (NBC):** Rigorous program for classroom teachers administered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards that includes performance-based assessments and peer review. The state and some local school systems reward National Board Certified teachers with additional pay. NBC takes approximately a year to complete and is the top national certification for educators.

**National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS):** A nonprofit organization created in 1987 to advance education reform and establish high standards for teachers. NBPTS administers the National Board Certification program to assess and certify teachers in accordance with these standards.

**Next Generation School Project (NGSP):** An initiative of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education. It is a grassroots effort that encourages local communities to organize themselves to dramatically improve their local schools. For 10 years, schools receive annual grants to give them necessary resources for innovations. In 2002, schools began to receive grants to change the school calendar from the traditional 180 days to a more balanced calendar that features strong intersessions for remediation and enrichment activities.

**No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act:** Law passed in 2001 that emphasizes increased accountability for states, school systems and schools and creates greater choice for parents and students, particularly those attending low-performing schools. The law gives more flexibility for states and local education agencies in the use of federal education dollars, and a stronger emphasis on reading. The law requires all states to implement statewide accountability systems, and allows students attending persistently failing schools to use Title I funds for supplementary education services.

**Norm-Referenced Tests (NRT):** Tests that measure students' performance compared to a large, representative group of students nationwide. These tests are not aligned with Georgia's curriculum, but help to determine how the state's curriculum compares with national standards.

## -O-

**On-Site Facilitator:** A person from a school or district that is trained in a specific instructional model. The facilitator mentors teachers in using the model.

**Out-of-Field Teaching:** Practice through which teachers are assigned to teach subjects that do not match their training or education usually to hard-to-staff subjects and/or schools. There are potential implications of the use of unqualified including NCLB stipulations.

## -P-

**Parochial School:** A school that is associated with a church or other religious institution and not supported with public funds.

**Pay for Performance (PfP):** Plan to pay teachers on the basis of their demonstrated competence in teaching and success in raising student achievement rather than seniority. (Georgia Law 20-2-213.1)

**Per-pupil Expenditures:** Money spent on each student in a given school district. Because public schools are financed in part by local property taxes, there is a disparity in per-pupil expenditures across the state.

**Performance Indicators:** Specific, well-defined skills that are linked to student achievement.

**Postsecondary Options Program (PSO):** A program between public schools and public institutions of higher learning. The student enrolls in classes and earns Carnegie units of credit that count towards high school graduation requirements and credit hours at the college or technical school.

**Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT):** PSAT/NMSQT stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test(tm). It also gives you a chance to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarship programs ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)). Since 1997, state funds have paid for PSAT administration to all tenth grade students in Georgia's public schools.

**Praxis I:** Academic skills assessment that tests knowledge in reading, math and writing. The Praxis I is required for initial teacher certification in Georgia and administered by ETS.

**Praxis II:** Subject assessment tests that are required for teacher certification in Georgia. Praxis II tests measure knowledge in particular content areas. There are Subject Assessments, Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) Tests and Teaching Foundations Tests.

**Professional Learning:** A whole range of activities aimed at improving teaching by providing teachers with necessary skills training and information. Professional development activities range from formal courses and seminars to teacher mentoring and collaboration.

**Professional Standards Commission:** The agency responsible for certifying teachers, school personnel and administrators in Georgia.

**Psycho-Educational Programs:** Programs located on regular education campuses or in special centers, which provide services to students with severe emotional and behavior disorders or autism.

## -Q-

**Quality Basic Education (QBE) Act:** The legal foundation for education in Georgia passed into law in 1986 with the goal of improving education. It provides the framework for such things as funding, educational programs, student and teacher assessments.

**Quality Core Curriculum (QCC):** Georgia's mandated minimum guidelines for the curriculum. Objectives are given at each grade level and must be taught. Local systems can add to QCC, but they cannot teach less than is mandated.

## -R-

**Reconstitution:** Process through which the state oversees a low performing school (school receiving Needs Improvement designation on a school report card for two or more consecutive years) and directs the duties of the school principal until school performance improves.

**Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs):** The primary provider of staff development in Georgia. Georgia's 16 RESAs provide leadership development, strategic planning, school improvement planning and other services to teachers and local schools.

**Remedial Education Program (REP):** An instructional program designed for students in grades 9-12 who have identified deficiencies in reading, writing, and math. This program provides individualized basic skills instruction as mandated by Georgia law in the areas of reading, mathematics, and writing. All REP teachers must meet certification requirements as defined by the Professional Standards Commission and be fully qualified to teach reading, writing, or mathematics (gadoe.org).

**Restructuring:** Major changes in the rules, roles and relationships in education created by NCLB. Schools that fail to make AYP for two, three and four years in a row are required to develop improvement plans, offer school choice, and provide supplemental educational services (<http://www.nwrel.org/planning/reports/ayptitle1/>).

**Retention:** Policy that holds back students with failing grades at the end of a school year.

## -S-

**SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test):** Standardized test taken by college-bound students to gain admission to college. The SAT tests students' verbal and mathematical reasoning ability.

**SAT II: Subject Tests:** Tests that measure knowledge in high school subject areas such as biology, calculus and American History. The SAT IIs are required at many highly competitive colleges and universities.

**School Board:** Legislative body of citizens who are elected locally by their fellow citizens to administer their local school system.

**School Choice:** Allows parents to enroll their children in the school of their choice including charter schools, private school, and/or open enrollment plans.

**School Council:** A local school advisory body comprised of the school principal, two teachers, two parents or guardians and two members of the business community. School councils provide advice and recommendations to the principal and the local board of education regarding a variety of issues, including student achievement goals, curriculum and instruction, school and community communications and local school board policies. The A Plus Education Reform Act requires every school to have a school council.

**School Improvement Teams:** Teams of master educators that will be assigned by the Department of Education to help diagnose problems in low performing schools as identified by the Office of Education Accountability. Their responsibilities will include reviewing procedures and curriculum, observing staff and assisting in the development of school improvement plans.

**School Readiness:** When a child enters kindergarten physically, emotionally, socially and academically prepared to learn.

**School Resource Officer (SRO):** A law enforcement officer placed in a school who serves as a resource for students, parents, teachers and administrators regarding legal issues. The SRO investigates crimes that occur on school property, acts as a positive role model to students and serves as a link to other agencies that provide preventive and counseling services.

**School Service Centers:** Coordinated, comprehensive, unduplicated services to school systems by the Georgia Department of Education, its field offices, Regional Education Services Agencies (RESAs) and neighboring colleges and universities.

**School-to-Work:** Programs ranging from on-the-job training to classes taught by local community colleges designed to prepare non-college bound students to enter the job market.

**School Within a School:** A special program, charter school or magnet school that is housed within a regular school. Schools within schools allow districts to experiment with innovative programs and teaching methods using existing facilities.

**Seamlessness:** The philosophy of developing one integrated education system from kindergarten through the workforce. The concept fosters communication and cooperation between local school districts, higher education institutions and the workforce. Seamlessness supports the concept of lifelong learning and encourages the building of bridges so students transition smoothly into the different phases of their education.

**Section 504:** Federal law that prohibits discrimination against disabled students.

**Self-Esteem:** Term denoting a widely accepted psychological aim of education. High self-esteem and a positive sense of one's self translates into higher achievement, greater happiness and more civility to others. Educators debate how much effort should be put into positively reinforcing self-esteem, but there is strong evidence that reinforcement improves student performance.

**Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED):** Term used in special education that refers to students whose emotions interfere with their classroom performance. Students with SEDs may have an inability to build and maintain satisfactory relationships with peers or teachers, a general mood of unhappiness and a tendency to develop fears associated with school and personal problems.

**Severe Behavior Disorder (SBD):** Term used in special education that refers to students who display behaviors that seriously interfere with the learning environment and the individual's ability to benefit from it. These behaviors are demonstrated over a long period of time and significantly extend beyond the norm of acceptable classroom behavior.

**Site-Based Decision Making:** A method of operating a school system in which many decisions traditionally made at the system or state level are made at the school level.

**Smart Start Georgia:** Formerly the Georgia Early Learning Initiative (GELI), Smart Start is a public/private partnership that works to improve the quality of early care and education for all children ages birth through five.

**Social Promotion:** Practice of allowing students who have failed to meet performance standards and academic requirements to pass on to the next grade with their peers instead of completing or satisfying the requirements. Social promotion ended in Georgia for the 2003-2004 school year for Grade 3, in 2004-2005 for Grade 5, and in 2005-2006 for Grade 8.

**Special Education:** Special instruction for mentally challenged or gifted students.

**Special Needs:** A student who has disabilities or is at the risk of developing disabilities that may require special education services.

**Staff Development:** An activity or process intended to help educators improve their skills, attitudes, knowledge and/or performance in their roles. Staff development helps teachers stay up-to-date on research, teaching techniques and state law.

**Standards:** Those requirements either in state law or rules passed by the Georgia Board of Education under which Georgia schools operate.

**Standards-Based Instruction:** Instruction that is specifically geared towards meeting standards. All student work is assessed against the standards.

**Standardized Test:** A test taken by many students under identical conditions in which the results are compared statistically to standard norms.

**State Report Card:** Report produced by the Office of Student Achievement for each school in Georgia. School performance is compared to previous school and local school system performance, absolute student achievement standards and comparable school group performance.

**State Superintendent of Schools:** Elected position that oversees Georgia's K-12 public schools and serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Georgia Department of Education.

**Student Support Team (SST):** A group of educators at a school who meet to discuss academic and behavior problems of specific students. The Student Support Team makes suggestions to the classroom teacher of ways to help the child improve. The team may also recommend that the child be referred to other programs for special assistance.

**Support Services:** Assistance that includes transportation, childcare, home visits, translators, and referrals to other agencies. Support services are based on the premise that students' families need support, which will enhance the students' education.

## -T-

**Teacher Evaluations:** Methods of assessing teachers' success in improving student achievement. Evaluations may include portfolios, observation and data and other evidence of student achievement.

**Teacher Licensure:** The process by which teachers receive state permission to teach. In Georgia, the Professional Standards Commission oversees teacher licensure and establishes minimum requirements for certification.

**Technical Education:** Instruction that prepares a student for employment immediately upon the completion of high school. Such programs range from carpentry to computer-aided design and cosmetology to medical technician programs.

**Title I:** A federally funded program for K-12 at-risk students that provides additional help on the basic skills. Title I is the largest federal aid program for elementary and secondary schools. The program provides money to school systems based on the number of low-income families in each district. There are school-wide programs in which at least 40 percent of students must come from low-income families or targeted assistance schools that receive services through funds given to local education agencies.

**Title II:** A federally funded program that provides assistance to state and local educational agencies and institutions of higher education with teacher education programs. Title II funds programs to improve teaching and learning, reform teacher preparation and certification standards and to develop better performance based assessment and professional development strategies.

**Title VI:** Part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance, including schools. Title VI prohibits the denial of equal access to education to students with limited proficiency in English.

**Title VII:** A federal program designed to improve the English proficiency of bilingual students.

**Title IX:** Law barring gender discrimination in education facilities that receive federal funds. Most Title IX cases filed against K-12 schools involve sex equity in athletic programs.

**Total Quality Management:** A concept for managing schools, which was adopted from the business world, that focuses on client satisfaction and encouraging employees to seek continual improvement.

**Training of Trainers:** A design for training a school in a new instructional method where one or more people are sent to special training and then provide training to the whole school.

**Tracking:** The practice of dividing students into class size groups, which exist for the major part of the school day or year, based on the student's perceived ability or prior achievement and then designing and delivering instruction to each group.

**Transition Plan:** Plan separate from the IEP that documents goals for a special education student to aid him or her in making the transition from school to work.

**-U-**

**Unsafe School Choice Option (USCO):** Ensuring that all of Georgia's Schools are Safe Under No Child Left Behind, states must develop a definition of "persistently dangerous" schools and allow public school choice for students who have been victims of a violent criminal offense or who attend a school that meets the definition (gadoe.org).

**-V-**

**Voucher:** A state allocation of money given to parents to allow their children to attend a school of the parent's choice, either public or private. Georgia does not allow vouchers.

**-Y-**

**Year-Round Schools:** Schools with alternative calendars. Students spend the same number of days in class as those on traditional calendars, but breaks are shorter and more frequent. A common alternative calendar has 45 days of instruction followed by 15 days of vacation and six-week summer vacations.

**-Z-**

**Zero Tolerance:** Policies that mandate predetermined consequences or punishments for a specific offense regardless of the circumstances surrounding it.