
Empowering Families Through Knowledge

— Action Plan for Enhancing Parental Understanding of
Special Education —

Christy Killeen | 2025

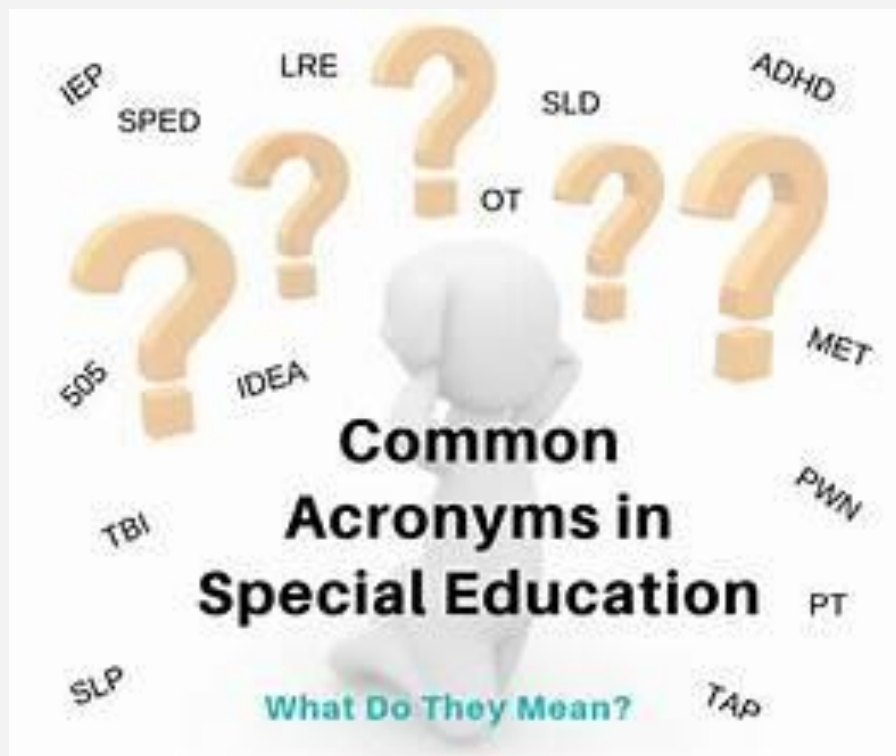
Vision & Mission

Vision: Empower families to become confident, informed advocates.

Mission: Create clear, family-friendly resources on special education rights and procedures to foster trust, collaboration, and equity.

Why This Matters

- A national survey by Public Agenda found that 63% of parents of children in special education are "not too familiar" with IDEA.
- Many parents feel overwhelmed and under informed during IEP meetings.
- Families deserve the knowledge and tools to effectively support their children.
- **Goal:** Build parent confidence and understanding through education and access.



Common Acronyms in Special Education

What Do They Mean?

Goal

Increase parental confidence and understanding of special education processes and legal rights by June 2026.

Workshops

- Hosting quarterly “Understanding the IEP” workshops (in-person and virtual).
- Content will cover: timelines, procedural safeguards, and parent roles.
- Encouraging interactive participation and questions.

Target: 90% of attendees show knowledge growth via pre/post surveys.

Handbook

- **Deliverable:** A parent-friendly handbook on IDEA and Section 504.
- **Features:**
 - Visuals, infographics, and simplified language.
 - Clear definitions of IEP, FAPE, LRE, and procedural safeguards.
 - Printable and digital versions made available to families.

Multilingual Access

- 14% of the families speak a language other than English
- Translation of handbook into the top 3 languages spoken in the district (Spanish, Portuguese, French)
- Creation of a multilingual glossary of special education terms (print and online).
- Promotion through schools and family centers.

Target: 100% of families have access to resources by Nov. 2025.

Implementation Roles & Resources

Leads:

- Christy Killeen & the Special Education Team

Support:

- Translators, district interpreters, family engagement staff

Resources Needed:

- Meeting space, agendas, interpreters
- Print and digital production tools
- Parent outreach network

Success Indicators

- 90% of workshop participants show increased knowledge on IDEA rights and procedures
- 100% of families can access multilingual special education resources
- Strengthened partnerships between families and schools
- Parents feel empowered to participate meaningfully in their child's IEP process