

Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA)
Educational Acronyms and Terminology
Updated November 2016

Acronym	Description	New Category	New Category
AAA	American Arbitration Association; national association for dispute resolution	Organization	
AASA	American Association of School Administrators; national organization for school administrators	Organization	
ACT	Originally American College Testing; college-readiness assessment	Learning	
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	Law	
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder	Learning	
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	Learning	
Administrators	School district leadership, includes deans, principals, vice-principal, directors, asst. superintendents, superintendents	Organization	
AESD	Association of Educational Service Districts; the is the statewide association comprised of leadership from each of Washington's nine Educational Service Districts.	Organization	
AFT	American Federation of Teachers; national teachers union	Organization	
AG	Attorney General	Organization	
AGO	Attorney General's Opinion	Leg/Law	
ALE	Alternative Learning Experience	Learning	
Allocation	An source of funding determined by the state based on FTE (student enrollemnt) that is distributed to districts	Fund	
AMAOs	Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives	Learning	
AP	Advanced Placement	Learning	
ASBO	Association of School Business Officials; national organization for school business managers	Organization	
ASCD	Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; national organizations	Organization	
AWB	Association of Washington Businesses	Organization	
AWSP	Association of Washington School Principals; state organization of school principals	Organization	
AYP	Adequate Yearly Progress; formerly an individual states measure of yearly progress toward achieving state acedemic standards, required under the 2002 federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)	Learning	
Basic Ed or Basic Education	Learning goals established in state statute that guide teaching and learning in Washington State. Providing an ample and equitable program of basic education is the "paramount duty" of the state as outlined in the state's constitution. RCW 28A.150.210 defines basic education learning goals and House Bills 2261 and 2776 from 2009 further define basic education for the purposes of funding public schools.	Leg/Law	
BEA	Basic Education Act; state law (RCW 28A.150.210) that defines the state of Washington's program of and vision for basic education	Leg/Law	
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs	Organization	
Biennium	a period of two years usually used for budgets	Funding	
Bond	a method used by a public school district to finance the purchase of land or buildings or pay for school construction costs (like getting a loan for a project). Bond measures are placed on the ballot by district school boards to be approved or defeated by the voting public and must be paid back by the local taxpayers. Bonds require a supermajority (2/3) of the vote to pass.	Funding	
CAA	Certificate of Academic Achievement; graduation requirement earned by passing statewide assessments	Learning	
CBA	Classroom Based Assessment; testes developed and administered by teachers	Learning	
CBA	Collective Bargaining Agreement		
CCSS	Common Core State Standards; student learning standards in English language arts and mathematics. Adopted in 2011 as Washington State's learning standards in those subjects for grades K-12	Learning	
CCSSO	Council of Chief State School Officers; national organization for heads of state departments of education.	Organization	
CEDARS	Comprehensive Education Data and Research System; academic assessment	Learning	

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CIA	Certificate of Individual Achievement; alternative to the certificate of academic achievement for students with severe learning disabilities	Learning	
CAS	Certificated Administrative Staff (CAS) are school/district administrators who may not hold a teaching certificate but have another certificate or credential associated with their position	Leadership	Teaching
CIS	Certificated Instructional Staff (CIS) are staff who hold a teaching certification	Teaching	
CLS	Classified Staff (CLS) are staff without a teaching certificate; include para-professionals, secretaries, bus drivers, maintenance and food staff	Teaching	
COE	Collection of Evidence	Learning	
CCSS	Common Core State Standards are Washington State's Learning Standards for students in mathematics and English language arts for grades K-12. The standards represent the knowledge and skill necessary for students to be ready for careers and college by the time they graduate high school.	Learning	
COP	Council of Presidents; voluntary association of the six presidents of the four-year public colleges and universities in Washington	Organization	
COSA	Council of School Attorneys	Organization	
CSCF	Common School Construction Fund	Funding	
CTB	Community Truancy Boards; newly required for all school districts starting in the 2017-18 school year per HB 2449 (the 2016 updated state Becca Law)	Governance	
CTC	Community and Technical College(s); secondary school classes that prepare students for occupations and the world of work	Learning	
CTE	Career and Technical Education	Learning	
CUBE	Council of Urban Boards of Education	Organization	
DECA	Distributive Education Clubs of America	Organization	
DEL	Department of Early Learning; a state agency that responsible for offering programs and services that support healthy child development and school readiness for children birth to age five. DEL oversees Head Start, ECEAP, and Early Achievers among many other early childhood programs statewide.	Organization	
DIBELS	Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills; a test that measures reading fluency at the elementary level	Learning	
DNR	Department of Natural Resources; state agency responsible for school trust lands	Organization	
DOE	Department of Education, usually used to reference the federal department vs. the state department	Organization	
Dual credit	Courses in which high school students have the opportunity to earn both high school and college credits simultaneously.	Learning	
DSHS	Department of Social and Health Services; state agency responsible for public health, public assistance, and vocational rehabilitation	Organization	
EALRs	Essential Academic Learning Requirements; the term used with the inception of the BEA in 1993 to represent what every student should know and be able to do by the time they graduate high school. This term has evolved and can be used interchangeably with "Washington State Learning Standards"	Learning	
ECS	Education Commission of States; partnership of states for mutual assistance in solving education problems	Organization	
ECEAP	Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program	Organization	
ED	U.S. Department of Education; federal agency (cabinet level)	Organization	
EEOC	Equal Employee Opportunity Commission; federal regulatory body, especially deals with employment discrimination claims	Organization	
EERA	Educational Employee Relations Act; state teachers collective bargaining statute	Leg/Law	
ELA	Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program	Organization	
ELD	English Language Arts	Learning	

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EL or ELL	English Learners or English Language Learners; students who are limited in their ability to communicate fluently or learn effectively in English, who often come from non-English-speaking homes and backgrounds, and who typically require specialized or modified instruction in both the English language and in their academic courses.	Learning	
ELP	English Language Proficiency Assessment Consortia; a group of states designing and developing an assessment system for English language learners. The system is based on the new English Language Proficiency Standards and addresses the language demands needed to reach college and career readiness. Washington is a member of ELPA 21.	Learning	
ELPA21	English Language Proficiency Assessment	Learning	
EOC	End of Course Exams; classroom tests administered at the end of math, science, and language arts courses	Learning	
EOGOAC	Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee; recommends policies and strategies to state educational agencies to close achievement gaps	Leg/Law	
ERDC	Education Research Data Center; this center is housed at the state's Office of Financial Management and is the state's hub for P-20 information and data, especially information about post-secondary attainment for Washington's high school graduates	Learning	
ERIC	Education Resource Information Center; computerized system to develop, store, retrieve information in all fields and levels of education	Organization	
ERNN	Employee Relations and Negotiations Network; provides member school districts with services related to bargaining and employee relations	Organization	
ERS	Educational Research Service; a nonprofit agency which offers current research and management information to subscribers	Organization	
ESD	Education Service District; nine regional ESDs provide a variety of services to school districts in Washington.	Organization	
ESEA	Elementary and Secondary Education Act; federal law enacted in 1965 that establishes assessments and accountability requirements for public schools and provides funds to states for specific programs. The ESEA has been reauthorized many times throughout the years. In 2001 the reauthorized Act was termed the "No Child Left Behind" Act. When ESEA was reauthorized in 2015, the Act was renamed the "Every Student Succeeds Act" or ESSA.	Leg/Law	
ESL	English as a Second Language; programs utilizing students first language to help them better understand english and academics.	Learning	
ESSA	Every Student Succeeds Act; this is the 2015 reauthorization of the 1965 ESEA law. It replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)	Leg/Law	
ETS	Educational Testing Service; nationwide organization that administers various kinds of educational and psychological tests	Learning	
FAPE	Free and Appropriate Public Education	Leg/Law	
FICA	Federal Insurance Contributions Act; federal program and financing social security	Leg/Law	
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act	Leg/Law	
FRL or FRPL	Free and Reduced Lunch or Free and Reduced Price Lunch; terms used to describe students who qualify for participation in the federal school nutrition program that provides free or reduced price school lunches for students from low-income households	Funding	
FRN	Federal Relations Network; school board members from each congressional district sponsored by the national schools boards associatio for advocacy at the federal level.	Organization	
FTE	Full Time Equivalent; the total number of students or staff members funded by the state, e.g., two half time employees are equal to one FTE.	Funding	
FDK or ADK	Full-Day Kindergarten or All-Day Kindergarten; generally used to refer to state-funded kindergarten that requires a total of 1000 instructional hours and 180 days of instruction. Starting in 2018 every school district will be required to offer FDK to all students.	Learning	

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GAO	Government Accountability Office	Organization	
GCS	Global Challenge State(s)	Learning	
GED	General Education Development; high school equivalency testing program and the diploma equivalent	Learning	
GET	Guaranteed Education Tuition; Washingtons prepaid college tuition program.	Funding	
GF	General Fund	Funding	
GF-S	General Fund-State; the main account from which state programs, services and operations are funded	Funding	
GLAD	Guided Language Acquisition by Design	Learning	
GLEs	Grade Level Expectations	Learning	
GO bonds	General Obligation bonds; municipal bonds secured by the states pledge to use tax revenue to repay bond holders	Funding	
GPA	Grade Point Average	Learning	
HB	House Bill; abbreviation preceding bill originating in the State House of Representatives	Leg/Law	
HQ	Highly Qualified	Teaching	
HRC	Human Rights Commission	Organization	
HSPE	High School Proficiency Exam; math and language arts tests required for high school graduation.	Learning	
IB	International Baccalaureate	Learning	
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; federal law reauthorized in 2004	Leg/Law	
IEP	Individualized educational plans; developed by teachers and parents for each special education student	Learning	
Initiative	a law proposed by citizens and placed on the ballot in an election. This process bypasses the state legislature and allows citizens to pass laws	Leg/Law	
Instructional hours	the number of hours districts are required to provide students. Instructional hours include all time in the school day from the beginning of the first period class to the end of the last period class, except for time spent on meals.	Teaching	
IPEDS	Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System	Learning	
ITBS	Iowa Test of Basic Skills; multiple-choice, norm-referenced test of math, reading and language skills	Learning	
ITED	Iowa Tests of Educational Development	Learning	
JLARC	Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee	Leg/Law	
K-12	Kindergarten through Grade 12	Learning	
LAP	Learning Assistance Program; a program to serve eligible students who need academic support for reading, writing, and math, or who need readiness skills to learn these core subjects. Money for the LAP program is provided by the state based on a district's low-income students	Funding	Learning
LEA	Local Effort Assistance; state levy equalization funding	Funding	
LEA	Local Educational Agency; federal term which usually refers to a local school district	Organization	
LEAP	Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program; independent source of information for legislators regarding state revenue and budgets	Leg/Law	
LEP	Limited English Proficient	Learning	
LEV	League of Education Voters	Organization	
Levy	a request by a school district of voters to raise or continue local property taxes for a limited number of years for operations costs or capital improvements such as computers or other equipment; must pass by simple majority	Funding	
Levy cliff	This term refers to the reduction in levy authority within current law, currently planned for 2018. The "cliff" would reduce levy authority by four percentage points, along with a two-percentage point reduction in LEA. The change is scheduled to occur in 2018 unless the Legislature acts to extend the current level.	Funding	
LFA	Learning First Alliance; a partnership of major education organization in Washington State	Organization	

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M&O	Maintenance & Operation costs; often funded through levies; sometimes called MSOC (see below)	Funding	
MAP	Measures of Academic Progress assessment from Northwest Evaluation Association	Learning	
McCleary or McCleary v. State	The Washington State Supreme Court case which ruled that the State of Washington is violating the constitutional rights of students by failing to amply fund basic education. The Court ordered the Legislature to make “steady, real, and measurable” progress each year to fully fund K-12 public education by 2018	Leg/Law	Funding
MSOC	Materials, Supplies and Operating Costs; the cost to a school district or education entity for materials and supplies used in the classroom (e.g.: white boards, pencils, and printer paper) and operating costs like building maintenance and utility bills	Funding	
MSP	Measurements of Student Progress; this is Washington state’s required accountability assessment in grades 5, 8, and high school science. The ELA and mathematics MSP was replaced by the Smarter Balanced Assessments.	Learning	
MTSS	Multi-Tiered Systems of Support; a framework used in schools that addresses the instructional and behavioral needs of every student (MTSS is a system that brings together PBIS and RTI)		
NABE or WABE	National (or Washington) Association of Bilingual Education; the national and state membership associations for ELL and bilingual educators	Organization	
NACBE	National Advisory Council on Bilingual Education	Organization	
NAEP	National Assessment of Educational Progress	Organization	
NAESP	National Association of Elementary School Principals	Organization	
NASBE	National Association of State Boards of Education	Organization	
NASSP	National Association of Secondary School Principals	Organization	
NBCT	National Board Certified Teacher; a voluntary, advanced teaching credential that goes beyond state licensure. National Board Certification has national standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.	Teaching	
NBPTS	National Board for Professional Teaching Standards	Teaching	
NCES	National Center for Education Statistics	Organization	
NCLB	No Child Left Behind Act; another name for the current version of the elementary and secondary education act, the federal law which establishes assessment and accountability requirements for the nation’s public schools and provides funds to local school districts for specific programs.	Leg/Law	
NEA	National Education Association; national teachers union	Organization	
NERC	Non-Employee Related Costs; includes curriculum, facilities, and other overhead costs	Funding	
NGSS	Next Generation Science Standards; Washington’s student learning standards for science and STEM areas. Adopted in 2013.		
NREA	National Rural Education Association; national organization for rural educators, board members, PTA, etc.	Organization	
NSBA	National School Boards Association; federal advocacy and board leadership organization.	Organization	
NSF	National Science Foundation	Organization	
NSPRA	National School Public Relations Association; national organization for school communications specialists	Organization	
NWEA	Northwest Evaluation Association, provider of MAP test	Organization	
NWREL	Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory	Organization	
OCR	Office of Civil Rights in the Federal Department of Education; addresses student discrimination claims	Organization	
OFM	Office of Financial Management; state agency dealing with budget matters	Organization	
OLPT	Oral Language Proficiency Test	Learning	
OPMA	Open Public Meetings Act; state rules for meeting among public officials	Leg/Law	
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration; federal agency	Organization	
OSPI or SPI	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction or Superintendent of Public Instruction; Washington’s state department of education	Organization	

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P-12	Preschool through twelfth grade	Learning	Funding
P-20	Pre-Kindergarten through "Grade 20" (postsecondary education & training and/or the workforce)	Learning	Funding
PBIS	Positive Behavior Intervention Support	Learning	
PCHEES	Public Centralized Higher Education Enrollment System	Learning	
PDC	Public Disclosure Commission; state agency responsible for financial reporting by public officials	Organization	
PEAB	Professional Education Advisory Board; boards of active professionals that advise each education professional preparation program at colleges and universities in the state	Organization	
PERC	Public Employment Relations Commission; state agency responsible for dealing with labor relations for public employees	Organization	Teaching
PERS	Public Employees' Retirement System; retirement program for state and local government employees in Washington	Organization	Teaching
PESB	Professional Educator Standards Board; develops state policy and administers educator credentialing	Organization	
PFL	Partnership for Learning	Organization	
PLC	Professional Learning Community	Learning	Teaching
PRA	Public Records Act; state law establishing requirements for disclosure of records by public agencies	Leg/Law	
PRR	Public Records Requests	Leg/Law	
ProCert or ProTeach	Professional Certification; an advanced level teaching certificate, issued to holders of a Residency Certification who complete a ProTeach Portfolio	Teaching	
Prototypical school	a school design used in the state funding formula to determine the number of teachers, principals, and other school staff that are needed to provide a basic education. The size and staffing levels in a prototypical school differ for elementary, middle, and high schools. Districts are not required to staff their schools in the same way as the prototypical schools	Learning	Funding
PSAT	Pre-SAT assessment often taken by high school sophomores and juniors	Learning	
PSE	Public School Employees of Washington; classified school employees union	Organization	Teaching
PTA	Parent Teacher Association	Organization	
QEC	Quality Education Council; created by the legislature in ESHB 2261. The purpose of the QEC was to develop strategic recommendations for implementation of a new definition of Basic Education and the financing necessary to support it. During the 2016 legislative session, HB 2360 eliminated the QEC	Organization	
RCW	Revised Code of Washington; all state statutes. Title 28A RCW is the education code	Leg/Law	
Residency Certification	the initial license issued by the state for a teacher to be allowed to teach in a school. Teachers in Washington must attempt to earn the Professional Certificate after teaching for three years	Teaching	
RIF	Reduction in Force; employee layoffs	Teaching	Funding
RTI	Response to Intervention	Learning	
RTL	Readiness to Learn	Learning	
Running Start	Running Start is intended to provide students a program option consisting of attendance at certain institutions of higher education and the simultaneous earning of high school and college/university credit.	Learning	Funding
SAT	SAT; standardized test for college entrance (originally called the scholastic aptitude test then the scholastic assessment test, then the SAT reasoning test, and now simply the SAT)	Learning	
SB	Senate Bill	Leg/Law	
SBA or SBAC	Smarter Balanced Assessment; smarter balanced assessment consortium; this is the state's required accountability assessment system for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3-8 and high school.	Learning	

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Acronym	Description	New Category	New Category
SBCTC	State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; manages several programs that partner high schools and higher education partners focused on teacher professional development and college opportunities for students (such as the Bridge to College program; and GearUp); and sets policy for and distributes state funding to Washington's 34 community and technical colleges.	Organization	
SBE	State Board of Education; develops state policy and provides system oversight for public schools	Organization	
SCAP	School Construction Assistance Program; provides state funding to build or modernize permanent school buildings	Funding	
SEA	State Educational Agency. In WA, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)		
SERS	School Employees Retirement System; latest retirement plan for school employees	Teaching	Funding
SES	Socio-Economic Status	Learning	
SIOP	Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol	Learning	
SIP	School Improvement Plan	Learning	
SIRS	Schools Information and Research Service; state organization providing research results to local districts	Teaching	
SLA	Second Language Acquisition	Learning	
SLAP	School Law and Policy online subscription service; a computer research tool offered by WSSDA	Leg/Law	Organization
SLO	Student Learning Objective; generally classroom goals for student learning	Learning	
SLP	Student Learning Plans	Learning	
SMART goal	Goal that is Specific, Measurable, Attainable/Realistic, Related to Student Achievement and Time-bound	Learning	Governance
SNAP	Student Nutrition Accountability Program	Funding	Learning
SPED or SpEd	Special Education; specifically designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability	Teaching	
SPI	Superintendent of Public Instruction	Organization	
SRO	School Resource Officer	Teaching	
SSB	Substitute Senate Bill	Leg/Law	
Staff mix	a part of the state funding formula for schools used to capture the average teaching experience and education level of teachers in a district. Teachers' salaries go up with each year of experience and level of education. Staff mix (a number between 1 and 1.9) is multiplied by a district's base teacher salary to determine the salary amount the state provides for teachers	Funding	Teaching
STARS	Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System	Funding	
STEAM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math	Teaching	
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Math	Teaching	
STI	Since Time Immemorial; tribal curriculum developed with native tribes by OSPI	Teaching	
Sunshine Laws	US federal and state laws requiring regulatory authorities' (including school boards') meetings, decisions and records be available to the public	Leg/Law	
TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families	Funding	
TBIP	Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program; a state supported program that funds districts to provide a two-language system of instruction. Students learn language concepts and knowledge in their primary language at the same time they receive instruction in English.	Learning	
TPEP	Teacher and Principal Evaluation Program; "TPEP" is the term used most often when referring to the state's required teacher and principal evaluation system	Teaching	Leg/Law
TRI	Time, Responsibility and Incentive; supplemental teacher compensation	Teaching	Funding
TRS	Teachers Retirement System; retirement program for Educational employees in Washington	Teaching	Funding
TSA	Tax Sheltered Annuity	Funding	
TSE	Traffic Safety Education	Learning	

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USED	United States Education Department; the federal department of education	Organization	
WA-AIM	The Washington Access to Instruction & Measurement; an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards aligned to the Washington's ELA and mathematics learning standards for students with significant cognitive challenges.		
WAAS	Washington Alternate Assessment System; this alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive challenges was replaced by WA-AIM in the 2014-15 school year.	Learning	
WAC	Washington Administrative Code; state rules and regulations created by state agencies as directed by the Legislature in RCW	Leg/Law	
WACTE	Washington Association for Career and Technical Education	Organization	
WAEOP	Washington Association of Educational Office Personnel	Organization	
WaKIDS	Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills; the state-required process for students entering state-funded FDK programs	Learning	
WASA	Washington Association of School Administrators; the state association that is comprised of school district administrators and superintendent members.	Organization	
WASBO	Washington Association of School Business Officials; the state association comprised of school budget and finance officers	Organization	
WASL	Washington Assessment of Student Learning; Washington' state accountability assessment for federal and state purposes, including graduation; discontinued in 2009	Learning	
WCSA	Washington Council of School Attorneys	Organization	
WEA	Washington Education Association; state teachers union	Organization	
WedNet	Washington Education Network; the K-20 computer backbone in the state, part of many school district web site and e-mail addresses	Organization	
WERA	Washington Educational Research Association	Organization	
WELPA	Washington English Language Proficiency Assessment; the state's placement assessment used to determine initial student eligibility for English language development (ELD) services.	Learning	
WIAA	Washington Interscholastic Activities Association; non-profit policy and rule-making organization for sports programs in public and private secondary schools	Organization	
WISHA	Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act; state statute	Leg/Law	
WLPT	Washington Language Proficiency Test; this state placement assessment was replaced by the WELPA in the 2016-17 school year.	Learning	
WSAC	Washington Student Achievement Council; state agency that provides strategic planning, oversight and advocacy for academic achievement and higher education (formerly the Higher Education Coordinating Board, HECB)	Organization	
WSCA	Washington School Counselor Association	Organization	
WSASCD	Washington State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; this is the state affiliate of the national ASCD organization	Organization	
WSFT	Washington State Federation of Teachers; state teachers union	Organization	
WSIPP	Washington State Institution for Public Policy; legislative agency that carries out nonpartisan research	Organization	
WSIPC	Washington School Information Processing Cooperative; the group that many school districts utilize to provide data and report card systems	Organization	
WSPRA	Washington School Public Relations Association; state organization for school communication which conducts research regarding state government	Organization	
WSPTA	Washington State Parent Teacher Association	Organization	

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WSSDA	Washington State School Directors' Association; Washington State School Directors Association; state agency that supports school boards with policy development, leadership training, communications, and advocacy.	Organization	
WTECB	Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board	Organization	