



AISD GLOSSARY

of Terms, Acronyms, and Abbreviations

Compiled by the

Office of Planning and Community Relations

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This glossary is provided to assist in the orientation of new AISD employees as well as members of the District Advisory Council and Campus Advisory Councils.

Although it represents a sizable compilation of terms, acronyms, and abbreviations, this glossary is not intended to be exhaustive.

If you have any recommendations for additions, deletions, or changes to the glossary, please contact Joey Crumley, AICP, Office of Planning and Community Relations, at 414-9961 or jcrumley@austinisd.org.

AACC. (Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce).

ACTE. (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education). A national voluntary association of colleges and universities with undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare professional educators.

AAIM. (Austin Area Interreligious Ministries).

AAPSA. (Austin Association of Public School Administrators).

AAR. (Academic Achievement Record). An official and permanent record of a student's academic performance during high school and, in some cases, of high school courses completed in middle or junior high school.

AARO. (Austin Area Research Organization). A non-profit organization composed of a diverse membership of business and community leaders that serves as a catalyst to ensure the long-term economic and social well-being of the Austin region.

AASA. (American Association of School Administrators). Founded in 1865, a professional organization for more than 13,000 educational leaders. The mission of AASA is to support and develop effective school system leaders who are dedicated to the highest quality public education for all children.

AATPE. (Austin Association of Texas Professional Educators).

ABC. (Administrative and Board Calendar). Calendar maintained by AISD for tracking important administrative and Board of Trustees events and deadlines.

ABE/ESL. (Adult Basic Education/English as a Second Language). Collaborative effort of AISD and community partners to deliver basic education services.

ACC. (Austin Community College).

ACCESS. (Austin Collaborative of Cultural and Educational Sites and Schools). Initiative that promotes and facilitates collaboration among Austin area cultural and educational sites and schools to ensure that Austin students and educators have opportunities for experiential learning.

Accountability (Non-Mobile) Subset. Students tested in spring that were also enrolled in on the previous October PEIMS Snapshot date. Used in campus and district ratings.

ACES. (Alternative Center for Elementary Students). A disciplinary alternative education program for AISD elementary school students.

ACF. (Administration for Children and Families). Part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, responsible for federal programs that promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities.

ACP (Alternative Certification Program). ACP is a non-traditional route to certification. Persons holding at least a bachelor's degree may apply for alternative certification programs.

ACPTA. (Austin Council of Parent and Teacher Associations).

ACT. (American College Test). A standard college entrance examination.

ACTA. (Austin Classroom Teachers Association). See TCTA.

ADA. (Average Daily Attendance). Aggregate student attendance divided by number of days of instruction, used in the formula for distributing funding to Texas public school districts.

ADA. (Americans with Disabilities Act). Federal law that recognizes and protects the civil rights of people with disabilities.

ADD. (Administration on Developmental Disabilities). Part of the USDHHS that oversees implementation of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000.

ADD. (Attention Deficit Disorder). A condition characterized by the inability to concentrate. Between 3 and 10 percent of U.S. school-age children are thought to have ADD. Children who are also hyperactive or impulsive may be diagnosed with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

ADHD. (Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder). See ADD.

Administrative Employees. See Employee Groups.

ADVANCE. See Project ADVANCE.

Ad Valorem Tax. A tax, as levied by a school district or governmental entity, based on assessed property value.

AEA. (Alternative Education Accountability). Under the state accountability system, alternative education campuses (AECs) have the option to be evaluated under AEA procedures and receive accountability ratings based on different performance standards and indicators/measures than those used for regular campuses.

AEC. (Alternative Education Campus). Generally, a campus identified for administering disciplinary alternative education.

AEIS. (Academic Excellence Indicator System). State accountability and reporting system. (A complete AEIS Glossary is available on the TEA website.)

AEP. (Alternative Education Program). A program that offers alternative high school settings, offering options to traditional schooling such as self-pacing, alternative scheduling, accelerated instruction, and computer-based instruction.

AERA. (American Educational Research Association). Professional organization concerned with improving the educational process by encouraging scholarly inquiry

related to education, and by promoting the dissemination and practical application of research results.

AEWS. (Academic Early Warning Status). Under NCLB, a designation for any school not meeting AYP for two consecutive years. To be removed from AEWS, a school must meet AYP for two consecutive years.

AFL. (Account for Learning).

AFL-CIO. (American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations). A national trade union center the largest federation of unions in the United States. It was formed in 1955 when the AFL and the CIO merged.

AFSCME. (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees). One of the largest labor unions in the United States, and part of the AFL-CIO. AFSCME organizes for social and economic justice in the workplace and through political action and legislative advocacy.

AFT. (American Federation of Teachers). The American Federation of Teachers was founded in 1916 to represent the economic, social and professional interests of classroom teachers. It is an affiliated international union of the AFL-CIO.

AIA. (American Institute of Architects).

AICP. (American Institute of Certified Planners).

AIMS. (Austin Instructional Management System). Stores a variety of student assessment information, including benchmark assessments.

AIP. (Accelerated Instruction Plan). See GPC.

AISD CARES. (Courteous, Attentive, Respectful, Empathetic, Sensitive). AISD customer service excellence recognition program.

AISD UpClose. Initiative to provide detailed information and training to parents and community members on the mission, services, and operations of AISD. Through completion of a series of classes on a number of topics, participants are prepared to convey accurate information on the district to the community and to serve on various district task forces and committees.

AISD/UT. School Leadership Academy. A collaborative effort between AISD and the University of Texas to provide an opportunity for outstanding teachers to become school leaders, as assistant principals and principals, while continuing to work in the district.

AIT. (Agency for Instructional Technology). A non-profit organization founded in 1962 and now one of the largest providers of instructional technology products, including television programs, online instruction, CDs, DVDs, and instructional software.

ALAS. (Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents). Formed in 2003 as an affiliate of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) to bring focus to and support for Latino educational leaders and issues.

ALC. (Alternative Learning Center). A disciplinary alternative education program for AISD secondary school students.

American Community Survey. See SF3.

AmeriCorps. A network of local, state, and national service programs that connects thousands Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

AP. (Advanced Placement). Series of college level courses designed by the College Board for high school students. Students may receive college credit or placement depending on the university admissions standards.

APA. (American Planning Association).

APIE. (Austin Partners in Education). Collaborative effort of AISD and community partners to deliver services such as mentoring, tutoring, instructional technology, and campus beautification.

APO. (Annual Performance Objectives). Measurable long-range goals developed as part of the District Improvement Plan.

Application. Computer program that accomplishes a specific task, such as word processing or processing of payroll data.

APSI. (Advanced Placement Summer Institutes). A series of workshops at the University of Texas designed for high school and middle school teachers to become certified to teach advanced placement classes in their schools.

ARCIL, Inc. (A Resource Center for Independent Living). Provides independent living services to persons with disabilities, their families, and communities throughout Travis and surrounding counties.

ARD. (Admission, Review, and Dismissal). The ARD committee meets at least annually to develop/review an IEP for a student with disabilities in Special Education.

ASAP. (Absent Student Assistance Program). Collaborative program between AISD and Travis County to contact students who are absent from school. Designed to assist in increasing attendance rates.

ASCII. (American Standard Code for Information Exchange). Pronounced *ask-ee*, the most common format for text files in computers and on the Internet.

ASF. (Available School Fund). Made up of earnings from the Permanent School Fund and constitutionally dedicated motor fuel taxes and other miscellaneous revenue sources. The bulk of ASF revenue is distributed on a per capita basis to school districts. A portion of the ASF provides funding for textbooks and technology.

ASL. (American Sign Language).

Assistive Technology. Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a person with a disability.

ATCHD. (Austin-Travis County Health Department).

ATE. (Association of Teacher Educators). An national individual membership organization with state-level affiliations devoted solely to the improvement of teacher education both for school-based and post secondary teacher educators.

At Risk. Designation applied to students who meet state-defined criteria for increased likelihood of dropping out of school. Some of these criteria include: poor academic performance; grade-level retention; alternative education; being a parent or pregnant; expulsion; previous dropout; Limited English Proficiency (LEP); homeless; in care or custody of Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS). A student with a disability may be defined at risk, but not necessarily.

AU. (Academically Unacceptable). Rating in the state accountability system.

AUP. (Acceptable Use Policy). A policy that contains provisions for student use of the Internet and district network.

Austin Prime Time. Collaborative after school program offering various classes and activities sponsored by AISD and community partners.

Autism. A complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects the ability to communicate and interact with others. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. There is no known single cause for autism.

AVID. (Advancement Via Individual Determination). The goal of this program is to provide support for "students in the middle," so they can be successful in honors and advanced placement courses.

AWS. (Academic Watch Status). Under NCLB, a designation for any school not meeting AYP for four consecutive years. To be removed from AWS, a school must meet AYP for two consecutive years.

AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). Every campus and the district as a whole will be evaluated for making adequate yearly progress on federal accountability measures, including TAKS passing rates, TAKS participation rates, and either gradation (high school) or attendance (elementary/middle/junior high) rates.

- B -

Backbone. A high-speed line or series of connections that forms a major pathway within a network.

Balanced Scorecard. A set of performance indicators representing a balance of organizational perspectives but centered on the organizational mission.

Baldrige National Quality Program. Administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce, providing outstanding achievement awards in several categories including education.

Bandwidth. The amount of data that can be sent through a given connection per second.

Basic Allotment. The initial or starting number that, after adjustment, is used to calculate foundation program costs and state aid to school districts.

BE. (Bilingual Education). Provides for carefully structured and sequenced mastery of English language skills and is designed to consider the student's learning experiences and incorporates the cultural aspects of the student's background. In AISD, the native languages of instruction are Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and Korean.

Benchmark Tests. Tests that serve as a baseline in order to measure subsequent progress over time.

Bilingually Certified/Endorsed Teacher (BIL). A teacher authorized to assume primary responsibility for instruction of bilingual students in two languages.

BIP. (Behavior Intervention Plan). A plan developed to deal with persistent and/or recurring misbehavior that can include positive strategies, programs, curricular modifications, and supplementary aids and supports required to address the behaviors of concern.

Bit. (Binary Digit). The smallest unit of data in a computer, with a single binary value of 1 or 0; in most computer systems, there are eight bits in a byte.

Block Scheduling. Instead of traditional periods of 40 to 50 minutes, block scheduling allows for periods of an hour or more so that teachers can accomplish more during a class session. It may also allow for teamwork across subject areas.

Bloom's taxonomy. A classification of educational objectives developed in the 1950s by a group of researchers headed by Benjamin Bloom of the University of Chicago. Commonly refers to the objectives for the cognitive domain, which range from knowledge and comprehension (lowest) to synthesis and evaluation (highest). The taxonomy has been widely used by teachers to determine the focus of their instruction and is probably the original reference of the term higher-order thinking.

Blueprint Schools. AISD initiative for improvement at targeted low-performing elementary and secondary schools.

Blue Ribbon Schools. Under NCLB, this program honors public and private K-12 schools that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

BMI. (Body Mass Index). A health measurement based on the relationship between weight and height.

Bond. See Municipal Bond.

Bonded Debt. Also “bonded indebtedness” or “funded debt.” That part of the school district’s overall debt comprised of outstanding bonds.

BOY. (Beginning of Year).

BPR. (Business Process Review, or Business Process Re-engineering). Assessment of organizational business processes and systems for strengths and areas for improvement.

BPS. (Bits per Second). A measurement of how fast electronic data is moved from one place to another.

Broad Foundation. Eli Broad (pronounced *brōd*) and his family established the Broad Foundation in 1999 to focus on K-12 educational issues. The family’s initial funding commitment of \$100 million was later increased to over \$400 million. The Broad Foundation’s mission is to dramatically improve K-12 urban public education through better governance, management and labor relations.

Browser. An application program that provides a way to look at and interact with all the information on the World Wide Web.

BTC. (Building Test Coordinator).

BTO. (Basic Table of Organization). Local campus budget.

Byte. In most computer systems, a byte is a unit of data consisting of eight bits.

- C -

CAC. (Carruth Administration Center). AISD administrative complex.

CAC. (Campus Advisory Council). A campus-level advisory council required by state law that addresses the concerns of school communities. The purpose of this council is to ensure that the goals and plans of the campus are focused on student learning and have been established with the involvement of parents, community and staff and are reviewed and evaluated annually to improve the performance of students.

CAD. (Computer Aided Design). Software frequently used in architecture and engineering.

CADRE. (Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education). An organization that encourages and supports parents, educators, and administrators in the use of mediation and other collaborative strategies to resolve disagreements about special education and early intervention programs.

CAI. (Computer Assisted Instruction). Software that makes the computer an instructional tool for drill and practice, tutorials, simulations, or educational games.

CAMPO. (Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization). Regional planning organization required by the federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, to coordinate transportation planning in the Austin area.

Campus Group. Comparison group of similar campuses around the state used for accountability purposes.

CAN. (Community Action Network). A partnership of several major community organizations, including AISD, providing a forum for creative and collaborative problem solving, inclusive community participation, and community consensus building. CAN provides tools for effectively leveraging resources to meet evolving community challenges.

CAPCOG. (Capital Area Council of Governments). Formerly CAPCO, or Capital Area Planning Council. See COG.

Capital Assets. See Fixed Assets.

Career Pathway. A coherent sequence of courses leading to an occupational concentration.

CARES. See AISD CARES.

Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998. Provides federal funding for vocational and technical education for school districts and community colleges. The purpose of the program is to: build on the efforts of states and localities to develop challenging academic standards; promote the development of services and activities that integrate academic, vocational, and technical instruction, and that link secondary and postsecondary education; to increase state and local flexibility to provide services and activities; and disseminate national research, and to provide professional development and technical assistance that will improve vocational and technical education programs.

CATE. (Career and Technology Education).

CATF. (Capital Area Training Foundation). See Skillpoint Alliance.

CBA. (Curriculum-Based Assessment). Measurement that uses direct observation and recording of a student's performance in the local curriculum as a basis for gathering information to make instructional decisions. Also referred to as direct assessment of academic skills.

CBE. (Credit by Examination). Education credits earned by successfully completing a specified examination. Many colleges permit students to demonstrate college-level proficiency and earn credit for introductory courses that would repeat material covered in high school courses and independent studies.

CBO. (Community Based Organization). Typically a nonprofit organization with goals of improving the community in some way.

CBOC. (Community Bond Oversight Committee). AISD advisory group assigned to ensure that bond projects remain faithful to the scope of work approved by Austin voters.

CCAACC. (Capital City African American Chamber of Commerce).

CCDBG. (Child Care and Development Block Grant). The 1996 welfare reform law consolidated several different sources of federal funding for child care. CCDBG provides a block grant to states for child care assistance to help low-income working families become and remain independent. Specifically, CCDBG helps defray the costs of child care by providing eligible low-income families with subsidies to help them pay for child care. CCDBG includes funds specifically dedicated to improving the quality, as well as the amount of child care available, to low income families.

CCPP. (College and Career Preparatory Program). Series of courses in several career cluster areas that provide academic and work-based learning opportunities for students.

CCSSO. (Council of Chief State School Officers). A nonpartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education. CCSSO provides leadership, advocacy, and technical assistance on major educational issues.

CCTC. (Community Technology Training Center). Program of Skillpoint Alliance to strengthen a school's technology capacity and offer free evening computer training to adults who otherwise could not afford it.

CEI. (Cost of Education Index). Mechanism used in Texas to adjust foundation program calculations to compensate for variations in resource costs and costs of education beyond the control of school districts.

CEHI. (Compensatory Education Home Instruction). Academic services provided at home or hospital bedside to students being served under the Pregnancy Related Services program. Students receiving CEHI are counted present for FSP purposes based on the amount of service they receive at home each week by a certified teacher.

CFR. (Code of Federal Regulations).

CGCS. (Council of Great City Schools). Coalition of the nation's largest urban public school systems, working to promote urban education.

Chapter 41. Part of the TEC requiring the "recapture" of local tax revenues from "property rich" school districts to be redistributed to "property poor" districts ("Robin Hood" Plan). A district is considered "wealthy" when its total taxable property value divided by the total number of students in the district by weighted average daily attendance (WADA) exceeds a state threshold, currently at \$305,000 ("Equalized Wealth Level").

Charles A. Dana Center. Located at the University of Texas, the center provides education leaders with pertinent information about teaching, and provides support to teachers working to implement high academic standards for all students.

Charter School. Independent public school designed and operated by educators, parents, community leaders, educational entrepreneurs, and others. The voluntary enrollment structure is intended to make charter schools more accountable for student achievement; therefore, charter schools are granted autonomy and freedom from certain local and state regulations. Because they receive state funding, charter schools are precluded from charging tuition. Instead, they receive funds on a per-student basis from the state in which they operate, just like traditional public schools. Charter schools must admit any student who applies unless the classroom capacity is exceeded. In addition, charter schools must be non-sectarian and adhere to all educational health and safety regulations.

Child, Inc. A nonprofit organization directed by a Parent Policy Council serving as the federal Head Start and Early Head Start Program for Travis County. Child, Inc. is committed to initiatives regarding collaboration of services for school readiness, strengthening families, fatherhood, child support, healthy marriages, and faith based initiatives.

CHIP. (Children’s Health Insurance Program). A state program (part of TexCare) designed for families that earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid health care, yet cannot afford to buy private insurance.

Choice. See School Choice.

CIFMS and CIMP. (Continuous Improvement and Focused Monitoring System and Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process). Accountability measures developed and implemented by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs to monitor IDEA compliance in each state and ultimately drive and support improved results for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.

CIO. (Chief Information Officer).

CIP. (Campus Improvement Plan). Annual campus-level plans for improving student achievement required by state law.

CIP. (Continuous Improvement Plan). A cohesive, integrated plan geared toward improved results for students with disabilities and which includes planned corrections for any instances of non-compliance identified. The CIP is analysis-driven and results-based.

CIP. (Capital Improvement Program). A local government’s plan for matching the cost of large-scale improvements to anticipated revenues.

CIPA. (Children’s Internet Protection Act). Federal law administered by FCC addressing concerns about access to offensive content over the Internet on school and library computers. CIPA imposes certain types of requirements on any school or library that receives funding support for Internet access or internal connections from the “E-

rate” program, which makes certain technology more affordable for eligible schools and libraries.

CIRCLE. (Center for Improving Readiness of Children for Learning and Education). A non-profit organization based in the Division of Developmental Pediatrics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, widely recognized as one of the leading research and professional development providers in early education. CIRCLE was designated to serve as the State Center for Early Childhood Development (SCECD) required by the State Legislature.

CIS. (Communities in Schools). A national, school-based dropout prevention network of volunteers and other community resources helping children to be successful in school and life.

CISD. (Consolidated Independent School District).

CIT. (Campus Improvement Team). A team of experts in school reform and student achievement required as part of state accountability sanctions for academically unacceptable campuses. The CIT must be 50 percent external membership, and be approved by the TEA Commissioner.

CLASP. (Center for Law and Social Policy). A national non-profit organization that works to improve the lives of low-income people. Its mission is to improve the economic security, educational and workforce prospects, and family stability of low-income parents, children, and youth and to secure equal justice for all.

Classified Employees. See Employee Groups.

CLASSROOMxp. Software used for recording student grades and attendance.

CLC. (Community Learning Center). See 21st Century Program.

CNPIMS. (Child Nutrition Program Information Management System). TEA data collection system designed to meet the administrative data requirements of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast reimbursement programs.

COA. (City of Austin).

COBRA. (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985). Gives workers and their families who lose their health benefits the right to choose to continue group health benefits provided by their group health plan for limited periods of time under certain circumstances such as job loss, reduction in hours worked, job transition, death, divorce, and other life events.

COG. (Council of Governments). One of 24 regional agencies established by state law for providing planning and other services to local governments.

Coherent Sequence. A prescribed series of career and technology courses that build skills in a coherent and progressive fashion: simple to complex and general to specific. The end result of a coherent sequence of courses should be skills that enable a student to enter a career field in an entry-level job.

Cohort. A specific group of students established for monitoring purposes, particularly over time.

College Connection. Collaborative program between ACC and AISD to promote college readiness and to provide ACC enrollment to all AISD graduates.

Community Learning Centers. See 21st Century Program.

Compensatory Education. See SCE.

Completion Rate. Calculation of graduation success of a cohort of students over a four-year period. Used by the state to rate high schools and districts.

Compression. A digital process that reduces the bandwidth or bits necessary to encode information, saving transmission time or capacity.

Cookie. Information for future use that is stored by a server on a client; typically a cookie records user preferences for a particular site.

Co-op. (Cooperative Education). A structured method of instruction whereby students alternate or coordinate their high school or post-secondary studies with a job in a field related to their academic or occupational objectives. Students and participating businesses develop written training and evaluation plans to guide instruction, and students receive course credit for both their classroom and work experiences.

COTA. (Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant).

Courseware. Software used in the teaching and learning process to instruct students in a particular curriculum area.

CPC. (Campus PEIMS Coordinator).

CPTD. (Comptroller's Property Tax Division). Department responsible for conducting the annual property value study that determines the taxable wealth of each Texas school district to be used to allocate state aid.

CRI. (College Readiness Initiative). AISD program that serves students and their families by seeking the equitable and successful enrollment of all students in a post-secondary educational program.

CSESER. (Comprehensive Special Education Self-Evaluation Review). A method used to determine the Special Education Compliance Status (SpECS) of each school district and charter school in the state on an annual basis.

CSPD. (Comprehensive System of Personnel Development). Serves to improve the quality of educational services and programs for students with disabilities through recruitment, preparation and retention of highly qualified special education teachers and personnel.

CTE. (Career and Technology Education).

CTLT. (Campus Technology Leadership Team).

Cultural Connections to Teaching and Learning. AISD initiative focused on the refinement and delivery of culturally relevant pedagogy and professional development that will enhance teaching and learning for all children.

- D -

DAC (District Advisory Council). A district-wide advisory council required by state law that addresses the concerns of school communities. The purpose of this council is to ensure that the goals and plans of the district are focused on student learning and have been established with the involvement of parents, community, business and staff and are reviewed and evaluated annually to improve the performance of students.

DAC. (Dyslexia Advisory Council).

DADS. See TDADs.

DAEP. (Disciplinary Alternative Education Program). Established under the Safe Schools Act to serve students who have committed disciplinary offenses. A DAEP provides for the educational and behavioral needs of students in a setting other than a student's regular classroom, either on- or off-campus.

DAHSP. (Distinguished Achievement High School Program). AISD expects students to take at least the TEA Recommended High School Program, which requires a minimum of 24 credits for graduation, or the Distinguished Achievement High School Program which requires 24 credits, including three years of language other than English, plus advanced measures.

Dana Center. See Charles A. Dana Center.

DAP. (Distinguished Academic Program).

DARS. See TDARS.

Dashboard Metrics. A concise set of key indicators used by management to regularly assess organizational performance and improvement.

DDDM. (Data-Driven Decision Making). Process of collecting student data to assess student learning and to improve administrative and instructional systems.

Dedicated Fund. See Special Revenue Fund.

Delphi Technique. Communication technique used to manipulate a diverse group toward a consensus position through circulating information for comment in several rounds synthesizing the responses until all agree. If a participant's view cannot be synthesized with the groups after repeated rounds, then the premise must be declared invalid and abandoned.

DELTA. (Diversified Education through Leadership, Technology, and Academics). A dropout recovery and prevention program in place for all AISD high schools.

Differentiated Instruction. Also referred to as "individualized" or "customized" instruction. The curriculum offers several different learning experiences within one lesson to meet varied student needs or learning styles (e.g., different teaching methods for students with learning disabilities).

DIP. (District Improvement Plan). Annual district-level plan for improving student achievement required by state law.

Distance Learning. Delivery of instruction via any source remote from the classroom.

District Ombudsman. Serves as an independent, confidential resource to assist AISD parents and community members in resolving problems, complaints, conflicts, and other school-related issues when normal procedures have failed.

Domain Name. A unique name that identifies an Internet site, having two or more parts separated by dots, with the part on the left being more specific and the part on the right being more general (e.g., *tea.state.tx.us*).

DPE. (Department of Program Evaluation). Office within the AISD Department of Accountability, charged with evaluating federal, state, and locally funded district programs.

DSHS. See TDSHS.

Dropout Rate. Annual rate of prior year students who are accounted for, not graduated, and not enrolled the following year.

Dual Credit. Courses that earn both high school graduation and college-level credit.

Dual Enrollment. Concurrent enrollment at two educational institutions; e.g. high school, community college, or university.

Dyslexia. A reading impairment that affects up to 10 percent of the nation's school children. Traits of dyslexia include transposing letters, difficulty recognizing letters or numbers, and poor handwriting.

- E -

Early Head Start. See Head Start.

Early Start. A state initiative to expand preschool learning by providing curriculum materials to help prepare children for school.

eCampus. Online registration for AISD professional development opportunities.

ECE. (Early Childhood Education).

ECI. (Early Childhood Intervention). Services to infants and toddlers provided under Part C of IDEA. ECI is a federal grant program that assists states in operating a comprehensive statewide program of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, aged birth through age 2 years, and their families. Early intervention services include multidisciplinary evaluation of needs of children and family-directed identification of the needs of each family as set out in an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

ECS. (Education Commission of the States). An interstate compact for improving education by facilitating the exchange of information, ideas, and experiences among state policymakers and educational leaders.

ED. (Economically Disadvantaged). Referring to students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch or eligible for other public assistance.

EDA. (Existing Debt Allotment). State program that provides assistance to school districts in making debt service payments on qualifying debt.

EDEN. (Education Data Exchange Network). A product of PBDMI to provide SEAs and the federal government the capacity to transfer and analyze information about educational programs.

EDGAR. (Education Department General Administrative Regulations). Federal regulations including the administration of grants and contracts.

Education Austin. Consultation agent for AISD teachers and classified employees.

EL. (Executive Limitation). Under the policy governance system, Board policy specifying parameters within which the Superintendent must conduct the affairs and business of AISD.

ELA. (English Language Arts).

ELEVAR. (English Learners and Educators Versed in Academic Rigor). AISD initiative for raising the achievement levels of English Language Learners district-wide. (*Elevate* is the Spanish word for elevate.)

ELL. (English Language Learner).

ELLA. (English Language Learning Academy). Intensive academic instruction for first year immigrant middle school students.

ELOA. (Early Learning Opportunities Act). Federal legislation authorizing discretionary grant funding under ACF for programs that are likely to produce sustained gains in early learning for young children.

EMAT. (Educational Materials and Textbooks). TEA automated system for ordering educational materials and textbooks online.

EMAT. (Emergency Management Association of Texas). EMAT works to enhance public safety through training, and providing support to certification and training

programs. This is accomplished through fostering research, information exchange, and educational programs in order to advance the professionalism of persons engaged in emergency management and disaster preparedness.

Employee Groups. AISD employee designations, as follows:

Administrative Employees: Employees on the administrative pay scale. For example, Associate Superintendents, Principals, Assistant Principals, Directors, Assistant Directors, Instructional Coordinators, etc. These employees are usually on contract.

Professional Employees: Employees on the professional pay scale. For example, Teachers, Librarians, Helping Teachers, Counselors, Associate Psychologists, Attendance Officers, Visiting Teachers, Evaluation Associates, Athletic Trainers, Occupational/Physical Therapists, etc. These employees are usually on contract.

Classified Employees: Employees on the classified pay scale. For example, Secretaries, Clerks, Teacher Assistants, Management Assistants, Maintenance Employees, Custodians, Bus Drivers, Mechanics, Groundskeepers, etc. These employees are not on contract.

Enrichment. Programs that supplement the regular curriculum to provide a broader, and often more appealing, educational experience to students.

Environmental Scan. A comprehensive review of external elements and trends, particularly as they relate to organizational viability and growth, conducted as part of a strategic planning process.

EOC. (End of Course Examinations). Part of the state accountability system that includes exams in certain subject areas.

EOY. (End of Year).

Equalized Wealth Level. See Chapter 41.

E-Rate. Support mechanism of USAC that provides discounts to assist most schools and libraries in the U.S. to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access.

ERIC. (Educational Resources Information Center). Online database of educational literature sponsored by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education.

ERISA. (Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974). Federal law establishing guidelines for private pension plan administration and investment practices.

ESC. (Education Service Center). One of 20 centers established by the Texas Legislature in 1967 to provide school districts with professional development training and technical assistance that support statewide educational goals.

ESEA. (Elementary and Secondary Education Act). First enacted in 1965, ESEA is the principal federal law affecting K-12 education. The No Child Left Behind Act is the most recent reauthorization of ESEA.

ESL. (English as a Second Language). Instruction in English listening, speaking, reading, and composition through the use of any one method or combination of methods for teaching English to primary speakers of other languages. Although the teacher is an important model of English, this language is also acquired through peer interaction, the media, and the general environment.

ESL/Certified/Endorsed Teacher. A teacher who is authorized to assume primary responsibility for instruction of students who speak a language other than English.

ESOL. (English for Speakers of Other Languages). English course designed to assist speakers of other languages in the development of their English.

ESY. (Extended School Year). Educational programming beyond the traditional school year for eligible students with disabilities as outlined by IDEA.

ETAC. (Educational Technology Advisory Committee). TEA advisory body that works to increase the equity, efficiency, and effectiveness of student learning, instructional management, staff development, and administration.

ETC. (Educator Technology Competencies). AISD program for increasing teacher proficiency in effectively applying technology in the classroom.

Ethernet. A kind of local area network widely used because it can network a wide variety of computers.

ExCET. See TExES.

- F -

FAFSA. (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). A form that can be filled out annually for determining eligibility for federal student financial aid.

FAPE. (Free Appropriate Public Education). Provision of IDEA that mandates all school districts to provide Special Education and related services at no cost to students or their parents.

FBA. (Functional Behavior Assessment). A process for addressing student problem behavior that relies on a variety of techniques and strategies to identify the reasons of specific behavior and to help IEP teams select appropriate interventions.

FCC. (Federal Communications Commission).

FERPA. (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). Federal law that protects the privacy of student records.

FFY. (Federal Fiscal Year). Begins October 1.

File Server. See Server.

Firewall. A combination of hardware and software that separates a LAN into two or more parts for security purposes.

FIRST. (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). The primary goal of “School FIRST” is to improve the management of financial resources by school districts. Every district is required to hold a public meeting and distribute a financial management report that explains the district’s performance under each of several indicators and the district’s rating.

Fixed Assets. Land, facilities, or equipment that the school district intends to hold or continue to use for a relatively long period of time (“capital assets”).

FLES. (Foreign Language in the Elementary School). Provides instruction in a second language to help students reach functional proficiency in all content areas in the targeted language. Listening and speaking the language is somewhat more emphasized than reading and writing. The program emphasizes the learning of the 5 C's: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities.

FLUM. (Future Land Use Map). A graphic representation of recommendations for future growth patterns, depicting where certain types of land use or development should occur.

FMNV. (Food of Minimal Nutritional Value). Defined by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture as a food that possesses minimal or no nutritional value. Examples are, but not limited to, carbonated beverages, hard candy, gums, candy-coated popcorn, etc.

FOIA. (Freedom of Information Act.) Federal law that allows any citizen to obtain the non-confidential records of public agencies.

Formative Assessment. An assessment used by an educator to evaluate student knowledge and understanding of particular content, and then to adjust instructional practices accordingly toward improving student achievement in that area.

FREE. (Federal Resources for Educational Excellence). A website that provides links to many federally supported teaching and learning resources.

F/RPM. (Free/Reduced-Price Meals). See NSLP and SBP.

FSP. (Foundation School Program). State formula system used to fund public schools, consisting of three tiers: Tier 1, Basic Allotment; Tier 2, Guaranteed Yield; and Tier 3, Instructional Facilities Allotment (IFA) and Existing Debt Allotment (EDA).

FTE. (Full-Time Equivalent). One full personnel unit, which may be staffed by one full-time employee, or two or more part-time employees comprising one full position.

FTF. (First Things First). Developed by IRRE, First Things First is a framework for school reform to help students at all academic levels gain the skills to succeed in post-secondary education and good jobs. FTF districts and schools commit to: strengthening relationships among students and adults; improving engagement, alignment, and rigor

of teaching and learning in every classroom, every day; and allocating all resources – budget, staff, time and space – to achieve the first two goals. These changes are achieved using three strategies: small learning communities; the family advocate system; and instructional improvement.

FTP. (File Transfer Protocol). A standard protocol, the simplest way to exchange files between computers on the Internet.

FUBTF. (Facility Use and Boundary Task Force). An AISD advisory group that establishes parameters for ideal student assignment configuration to support student success, and develops proposals to maximize the utilization of AISD facilities.

- G -

GAATN. (Greater Austin Area Telecommunications Network). A fiber optic network that joins all AISD campuses and other governmental entities.

GACC. (Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce).

GAHCC. (Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce).

Gap Analysis. An assessment of where an organization is and where it wants to be, based on quantitative and qualitative data, often used in strategic planning.

Gateway. A network point that acts as an entrance to another network.

GED. (General Educational Development). Testing and certification associated with high school equivalency.

GEH. (General Education Homebound). Students provided services under this instructional setting receive services at home or hospital bedside from a certified teacher and are counted present for FSP purposes based on the amount of service they receive at home or hospital bedside each week. Students served under this setting do not qualify for special education eligibility, must be confined for medical reasons only, and are expected to be confined for a minimum of four consecutive weeks.

GEM. (Gateway to Educational Materials). An initiative of the U.S. Department of Education that expands the capability of educators to access web-based lesson plans, instructional units, and other educational materials.

GenAustin. Local nonprofit organization dedicated to helping adolescent girls by providing programs that enhance healthy self-esteem by educating them and their parents and teachers.

General Fund. An account for revenues to finance day-to-day operations of the school district not otherwise specified for or dedicated to particular activities or programs.

Gentrification. A process whereby parcels of land owned or occupied by persons of relatively low income are purchased by wealthier individuals and renovated, resulting in an often marked increase in property values. Gentrification may result in revitalization,

but negative effects of gentrification may include the displacement of certain populations and the loss of traditional neighborhood character.

Geocoding. The assignment of geographic coordinates to data, particularly for GIS use.

GIF. (Graphic Interchange Format). A common format for image files, especially suitable for images containing large areas of the same color.

GIS. (Geographic Information System). An automated system for referencing and often mapping geocoded data.

GO Project. (Greater Opportunities). Provides expanded opportunities in adult life for Special Education students served by AISD who are 19 and older.

GPA. (Gold Performance Acknowledgement). A TEA performance designation.

GPC. (Grade Placement Committee). If a student does not perform satisfactorily on a standard assessment, a GPC composed of the principal or principal's designee, the teacher in the subject tested, and the parent or guardian, is formed to develop an Accelerated Instruction Plan (AIP) and make promotion decisions for the student.

GPR. (Grade Point Ratio).

Groupware. License from a software company (site license) allowing a group to use a single copy of a program/application on more than one machine.

G/T. (Gifted/Talented). Refers to services provided to students who are identified as needing differentiated services to challenge them.

Guaranteed Yield. A school finance plan in which the state specifies a revenue yield that it will guarantee in terms of revenue per student per penny of local tax effort. Districts adopt tax rates and levy taxes. The state makes up the difference between what each district levies locally per student and the guaranteed yield per student. High-wealth districts may raise all of their guaranteed yield revenue from local tax sources.

- H -

HABLA. (Hispanic Advocates and Business Leaders of Austin).

Head Start. Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive federal child development programs under ACF 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.

HEAT. Automated tracking system used by the Technology Help Desk.

HECB. (Texas Higher Education Coordination Board). State agency created in 1965 to provide leadership and coordination for the Texas higher education system to achieve excellence in the college education of Texas students.

HELP. See Project HELP.

HERC. (Higher Education Readiness Component). At least 50 percent of all 11th grade students taking the TAKS test score at or above the Texas Success Initiative standard. For ELA, a scale score of at least 2200 and a score of 3 or higher on the essay portion; for math, a scale score of at least 2200.

HHSC. See THHSC.

HIPPA. (Health Insurance Portability and Privacy Act). The first comprehensive federal law to protect the privacy of personal health-related information.

HLS. (Home Language Survey). A one-time survey conducted in English and Spanish to determine the language normally used in the home and the language used by the student.

Hold Harmless. Term used to describe a provision in new law that is designed to protect a school district from a loss of local revenue or state aid. Hold harmless provisions are common when a significant change is made to a formula or funding source.

Host. Any computer that has full two-way access to other computers on the Internet.

HSEP. (High School Equivalency Program). Also known as the In-School GED Program, this program prepares eligible students to take a high school equivalency examination (GED).

HSTE. (Health Science Technology Education). Secondary career education program for students interested in pursuing a career in health care.

HTML. (HyperText Markup Language). The coded format language used for creating hypertext documents on the Internet and controlling how Web pages appear.

HTTP. (HyperText Transfer Protocol). The protocol for moving hypertext files across the Internet.

HVAC. (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning).

Hypertext. Generally, any text that contains links to other documents – words or phrases in the document that can be chosen by a reader and which cause another document to be retrieved and displayed.

- | -

IACP. (Individual Academic/Career Plan). A six-year educational plan that is designed to prepare students to enter a chosen career field upon graduation or enter a college of their choice with the knowledge of a career pathway to pursue. The IACP includes elective courses that lead students through a coherent sequence aimed at career awareness and competency in addition to all courses that are required for graduation.

IAES. (Interim Alternative Educational Setting). A setting other than the student's current placement that enables the student to continue to receive educational services according to his or her IEP. The IAES must enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and progress toward meeting the goals set out in the IEP. Students in an IAES should also receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not happen again. The particular IAES is determined by the student's IEP team.

IB. (International Baccalaureate). A program offered only at Anderson High School which is an internationally recognized curriculum that offers 11th and 12th grade students an opportunity to earn an IB Diploma, recognized by universities worldwide.

ICR. (Initial Compliance Review). An automated data system of TEA that reports on the compliance of school district NCLB programs (Titles I, II, III, IV, and V).

IDEA. (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). Federal law which requires that a free appropriate public education (FAPE) is available for all students with disabilities.

IDRA. (Intercultural Development Research Association). An independent, nonprofit organization that advocates the right of every child to a quality education.

IEE. (Independent Educational Evaluation). Refers to an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not employed by the district responsible for the education of the child being evaluated. It is of no cost to the parent, and is conducted in accordance with district criteria. Parents have a right to request an IEE when they disagree with an evaluation conducted or obtained by the district.

IEP. (Individual Education Plan). Outlines the measurable goals and objectives, instructional modifications, behavioral strategies, and related services needed for a student with disabilities.

IES. (Institute of Education Sciences). Established by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, IES is the research arm of USDE. Its mission is to expand knowledge and to provide information on the condition of education, practices that improve academic achievement, and the effectiveness of federal and other education programs. Its goal is the transformation of education into an evidence-based field in which decision makers routinely seek out the best available research and data before adopting programs or practices that will affect significant numbers of students.

IFA. (Instructional Facilities Allotment). State program that provides assistance to school districts in making debt service payments on qualifying bonds and lease-purchase agreements to construct instructional facilities. IFA is distributed through grants, most of which go to districts with low property wealth.

IFAS. (Integrated Finance and Accounting System). Software used for financial, budget, payroll, and Human Resources applications.

IFSP. (Individualized Family Service Plan). Documents and guides the early intervention process for children with disabilities and their families in accordance with

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It contains information about the services necessary to facilitate a child's development and enhance the family's capacity to facilitate the child's development. Through the IFSP process, family members and service providers work as a team to plan, implement, and evaluate services tailored to the family's unique concerns, priorities, and resources.

IFL. (Institute for Learning). The IFL of the University of Pittsburgh and AISD are partners in implementing the Principles of Learning.

IHS. (International High School). AISD high school for immigrant students requiring intensive assistance in English language skills and socialization.

Immersion. Situation wherein subject matter is taught in the student's second language (i.e., English, for ESL students); all instruction is in the student's second language except for Language Arts which is taught in the student's primary language.

Impact Team. Coordinated campus effort aimed at dropout prevention.

Impervious Cover. Any type of surface that will not allow rainfall or runoff to soak into the ground (e.g., pavement or buildings). Local ordinances may limit impervious cover in developments for environmental protection or runoff control purposes.

Inclusion. Inclusion is not a legal term; by definition, it is the opposite of exclusion. Integration with other students is seen as a right, rather than a privilege to be earned. It implies that Special Education students are only removed from regular education settings if they cannot succeed there with supports and services

Infill. See Urban Infill.

Infrastructure. In land use planning, infrastructure refers to basic development needs such as streets, drainage, and water, wastewater, and electrical utilities. In school planning, infrastructure refers to basic service supports such as buildings, technology, and transportation.

Insure-a-Kid. Centralized program in Texas to assist parents in applications for low-cost or free health insurance for their children (see TexCare).

Interlocal. Refers to conditions or agreements between two or more local governments.

International High School. AISD initiative to better serve immigrant students new to the American School system, designed to provide accelerated learning.

International Welcome Center. AISD center that receives families and students, completes assessments of reading and language skills, and recommends placement for immigrant students.

INVEST/Positive Families. Short-term interventions that allow students who have been removed to AISD's Alternative Learning Center (for either persistent misbehavior or for first time misdemeanor drug or alcohol use or possession offenses) and their families to improve skills in problem solving, anger management, and communication.

IPG. (Instructional Planning Guide). Part of the AISD written curriculum providing instructional guidance on pacing of instruction, research-based best practices including the Principles of Learning, methodologies, instructional resources, assessment strategies, descriptions of student work, and discipline-specific and course-specific teacher notes.

IPM. (Integrated Pest Management). Practice of encouraging ecologically sensitive pest management in facilities and grounds maintenance.

IP Number. (Internet Protocol Number). Sometimes called a dotted quad, a unique number consisting of four parts separated by dots; every machine that is on the Internet has an IP Number.

IRRE. (Institute for Research and Reform in Education). National non-profit organization that partners with school districts and schools to help all students develop the academic strengths they need for good jobs and post-secondary education.

I&S. (Interest and Sinking). Tax revenues that pay for bonded indebtedness, facilities, and other capital needs. The I&S tax rate is limited by state law to \$0.50 per \$100 of assessed property value on all debt issued after September 1, 1992.

IS. (Information Systems).

ISO. (International Organization for Standardization). Establishes standards for business processes and procedures. ISO 9000 is particularly concerned with quality management.

ISS. (In-School Suspension). A student is removed from the regular education setting to an alternative setting (not DAEP). As long as the student continues to come to school, the attendance in the program may be counted in computing the district's ADA.

IT. (Information Technology).

ITF. (Information Task Force). Advisory body to TEA providing technical reviews of proposed changes to PEIMS data standards.

ITP. (Individual Transition Plan). A written document created separate from the IEP that addresses services the student needs to move successfully from school to post-school activities.

- J -

JFTK. (Just for the Kids). A program furthering academic standards and student learning, sponsored by NCEA, providing school data, best practices, and training.

JJAEP. (Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program). Alternative education program operated by the Juvenile Board of Travis County to serve youth that have been expelled or adjudicated.

JPEG. (Joint Photographic Experts Group). A common format for image files, usually preferred over the GIF format for photographic images as opposed to line art or other simpler images.

- K -

KPI. (Key Performance Indicator). Performance measures associated with AISD central office programs and services.

- L -

LAN. (Local Area Network). A computer network spanning a relatively small area.

LASA. (Liberal Arts and Science Academy). AISD specialized high school program collocated with LBJ High School.

LAT. (Linguistically Accommodated Testing). Administering of TAKS for students with Limited English Proficiency.

LBB. (Texas Legislative Budget Board). A permanent joint committee of the Texas Legislature that develops recommendations for legislative appropriations to all state agencies.

LD. (Learning Disorder). A condition that affects the way a person receives, processes, or expresses information, and impacts ability to learn the basic skills of reading, writing, or math.

LDAA. (Locally Developed Alternative Assessment). See SDAA II.

LEA. (Local Education Agency). The entity that has legal authority, control and responsibility for public education in a city, county, town (or combination of these), or other subdivision of a state. In Texas, LEA is synonymous with Independent School District.

Leaver Record. In the fall of each year, districts report all 7th through 12th grade students who were enrolled or in attendance at any point during the prior year but who did not re-enroll the following fall. This group of "leavers" includes students who graduated or received a GED, moved to another district, state, or country, died, or dropped out. This information is sent to TEA in Submission 1 of the annual PEIMS data collection.

LEP. (Limited English Proficiency). The term usually used in elementary and secondary education for students whose English language skills are insufficient for them to succeed in the regular curriculum. This classification is based on a combination of criteria including a Home Language Survey, language dominance test scores, and English achievement test scores.

LFA. (Local Fund Assignment). The amount of money for operations that a school district is required to raise. The state will provide additional funds if the LFA does not generate enough money to fund the foundation program.

Listserv. Registered trademark for a distribution list that can be set up with Web archives and have much more administrative support.

LMC. (Library Media Center). AISD center that includes a professional library, a teacher production lab, a media center and a processing center for AISD acquisitions, cataloging, and processing.

LMTC. (Lead Mentor Teacher Contact). A teacher trained to mentor other teachers who in turn trains other teachers at his or her home campus.

Local Government. A governmental entity ranking below a national or state government. Local governments usually refer to cities and counties, but may also include school districts and other special districts or authorities.

Looping. An informal term for assigning students to the same teacher for more than one school year. Rather than teaching a new group of students at the same grade level each year, teachers stay with the same group of students as they move from grade to grade.

LOTE. (Languages Other Than English). Division of the Texas Education Agency that coordinates the development of the TEKS and all instructional activities in foreign language programs.

LPAC. (Language Proficiency Assessment Committee). A committee composed of members including, but not limited to, a campus administrator, one appropriately certified teacher assigned to the Bilingual Education program, one appropriately certified teacher assigned to an ESL program, and the parent of a Limited English Proficiency student.

LRE. (Least Restrictive Environment). The place in which the ARD committee determines the IEP can be implemented. The school the student would attend, if non-disabled, and the regular education classrooms are the least restrictive environments for all students. The ARD committee must first consider these placements for IEP implementation prior to determining a non-home school or "pull-out" services.

LRPT. (Long Range Plan for Technology). TEA plan, the fundamental goal of which is to enhance students' acquisition of knowledge through technology.

LSP. (Local Support Team). Campus group that meets primarily to review challenges faced by students, suggest possible interventions, and monitor progress.

LSSP. (Licensed Specialist in School Psychology).

LST. (Local Support Team). This group usually meets to review challenges students may experience in school. They suggest intervention and monitor progress.

LULAC. (League of United Latin American Citizens.) The largest and oldest Hispanic organization in the U.S., LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 councils nationwide.

- M -

MADD. (Mothers Against Drunk Driving). Nonprofit organization whose mission is not to crusade against alcohol consumption, rather to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime, and prevent underage drinking.

Magnet School. A school that offers a specialized curriculum capable of attracting a substantial number of students district-wide.

Making Healthy Choices. AISD comprehensive health curriculum for all grades. Awareness, responsible decision-making, and abstinence are the cornerstones of prevention in this curriculum.

Manipulatives. Learning materials designed to help students understand abstract ideas by handling physical objects.

MDCP. (Medically Dependent Children Program). Provides services to support families caring for children who are medically dependent and to encourage de-institutionalization of children in nursing facilities. TDADS provides case management services.

Mentor. A volunteer who provides guidance and companionship to students, particularly those who are underachieving or at-risk. Also, an experienced, trained teacher who provides guidance to beginning teachers.

MIS. (Management Information Systems). Part of the AISD Office of Information Systems that provides applications programming and applications support and reporting services for the district.

M&O. (Maintenance and Operations). Tax revenues that pay for day-to-day administrative and operational costs. The M&O tax rate is limited by state law to \$1.50 per \$100 of assessed property value.

Modem. (MOdulator, DEModulator). Device that connects a computer to a telephone line, allowing the computer to communicate with other computers through the phone system.

MOU. (Memorandum of Understanding).

MPC. (Materials Processing Center). A department within the Library Media Center (LMC) where AISD library and other instructional materials are purchased, catalogued, and processed.

MPO. (Metropolitan Planning Organization). See CAMPO.

MSA. (Metropolitan Statistical Area). A U.S. Census designation covering a specified metropolitan area. The Austin-San Marcos MSA includes Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop, and Caldwell counties.

Municipal Bond. ("Muni" Bond) A debt security issued by school districts and governmental entities to fund community projects. The bond is a promise to pay back a principal sum (the face value of the bond) by a specified time (the maturity date of the bond) plus interest (paid periodically, such as semi-annually). Bonds are sold to bidders offering to provide the principal at the lowest interest rate. Bonds are attractive to investors due to the tax-exempt status of the interest payments.

- N -

NAACP. (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). Founded in 1909, the mission of NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

NAEP. (National Assessment of Education Progress). Also known as "the Nation's Report Card," NAEP is conducted by NCES and reports information for the nation and specific geographic regions of the country, and includes students drawn from both public and private schools and reports results for student achievement at grades 4, 8, and 12.

NAEP/TUDA. See TUDA.

NAICS. (North American Industry Classification System). Developed jointly by the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to provide new comparability in statistics about business activities across the continent. Replaces the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system.

NASBE. (National Association of State Boards of Education). A non-profit organization founded in 1958 to strengthen state leadership in educational policymaking.

NASDE. (National Association of State Directors of Special Education). Organization of State special education directors who are committed to a standards-based education system responsive to the needs of all children, especially those with disabilities.

NASP. (National Association of School Psychologists.)

National Board Certified Teacher. See NBPTS.

National Urban League. Established in 1910 as the Urban League, the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream. Today, the National Urban League, headquartered in New York City, spearheads the non-partisan efforts of its local affiliates, providing direct services through programs, advocacy, and research.

NBPTS. (National Board of Professional Teaching Standards). An independent, nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by: maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do; providing a national voluntary system certifying teachers who meet these standards; and advocating related education reforms to integrate National Board Certification in American education and to capitalize on the expertise of National Board Certified Teachers.

NCBI. (National Coalition Building Institute). A nonprofit leadership training organization that works to eliminate racism and all other forms of prejudice and discrimination throughout the world.

NCCRES. (National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems). Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs, NCCRES provides technical assistance and professional development to close the achievement gap between students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and their peers, and to reduce inappropriate referrals to special education.

NCEA. (National Center for Education Accountability). A collaborative effort of ECS and the University of Texas, which sponsors "Just for the Kids."

NCES. (National Center for Education Statistics). Part of the U.S. Department of Education, having primary federal responsibility for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the U.S. and other nations.

NCHS. (National Center for Health Statistics). Federal agency responsible for the collection and dissemination of the Nation's vital and health statistics.

NCLB (No Child Left Behind). Federal law that reauthorized/reorganized several programs and added a layer of federal accountability for schools and districts.

- Title I** Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
- Title II** Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals
- Title III** Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students
- Title IV** 21st Century Schools and Safe and Drug-Free Program
- Title V** Promoting Informed Parental Choice and Innovative Programs
- Title VI** Flexibility and Accountability
- Title VII** Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native Education
- Title VIII** Impact Aid Program
- Title IX** General Provisions

NCSEAM. (National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring). Also known as the National Monitoring Center, NCSEAM is federally funded by the Office of

Special Education Programs (OSEP) of the U.S. Department of Education to assist states, local agencies, and OSEP in the implementation of focused monitoring and evidenced-based decision-making about compliance with federal law so that improved results are achieved for children with disabilities and their families.

NCUEA. (National Council of Urban Education Associations). A caucus of local affiliates of the NEA.

NDPC. (National Dropout Prevention Centers). The National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD) supports the national implementation of provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to provide successful school outcomes for students with disabilities. The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (NDPC/N) serves as a clearinghouse on issues related to dropout prevention and to offer strategies designed to increase the graduation rate in America's schools.

NEA. (National Education Association). National membership organization for promoting the cause of public education.

NECTAC. (National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center). Supports the implementation of the early childhood provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Its mission is to strengthen service systems to ensure that children with disabilities (birth through five) and their families receive and benefit from high quality, culturally appropriate, and family-centered supports and services.

NETP. (National Educational Technology Plan). USDE long-range plan for enhancing educational technology.

New Urbanism. A type of planning focused on achieving highly livable communities with a strong sense of place and neighborhood identity and urban design that is both attractive and sustainable.

NHI. (National Hispanic Institute). National organization training high-ability Latino youth for leadership readiness.

NHS. (National Honor Society).

NIDRR. (National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research). Part of the U.S. Department of Education's OSERS that provides leadership and support for a comprehensive program of research related to the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities.

NMSQT. See PSAT/NMSQT.

NovaNET. The registered trademark name for a computer assisted learning software product produced by NovaNET Learning, Inc., used in high school DELTA labs.

NSF. (National Science Foundation). Independent federal agency established by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 to promote the progress of science, advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare, and secure the national defense.

NSLP. (National School Lunch Program). Administered by USDA to provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to low-income children each school day.

NSPRA. (National School Public Relations Association). National membership organization since 1935 that provides school communication training and services to school leaders.

NSS. (Network Systems and Support). Provides support for remote locations in AISD LAN and WAN systems, telephone and public address systems, campus wiring, workstations, network applications, and GAATN, and is involved in a number of special technology projects.

NUL. See National Urban League.

- O -

Occupational Cluster. Grouping of occupations from one or more industries that share common skill requirements. Occupational clusters form the basis for developing national skill standards, organizing instruction in all aspects of an industry, establishing career academies, and creating career pathways or majors as part of school-to-work programs.

OCR. (Office for Civil Rights). Part of the U.S. Department of Education that ensures equal access to education and promotes educational excellence throughout the nation through vigorous enforcement of civil rights. Enforces Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and looks into complaints about discrimination based on disability.

O&M. (Orientation and Mobility). Rehabilitative training in which the student learns all of the skills necessary for independent travel and safe movement within various environments.

OEYP. (Optional Extended Year Program). Instructional services for students in kindergarten through grade 11 who are identified as likely not to be promoted to the next grade level for the succeeding school year, or in grade 12 who are identified as likely not to graduate before the beginning of the succeeding school year. The purpose of the OEYP is to provide students with additional time to master state content standards and student performance standards.

Ombudsman. See District Ombudsman.

OPCR. (Office of Planning and Community Relations). AISD office that includes strategic planning, customer service, the District Ombudsman, Foundation Development, and Communications.

Open Records Request. A written request to a governmental body under the Public Information Act. The request must ask for records or information already in existence. The act does not require a governmental body to create new information, to do legal research, or to answer questions.

Operating System. Software that controls the operation of other programs, such as Windows.

OSEP. (Office of Special Education Programs). Part of the U.S. Department of Education's OSERS dedicated to improving results for persons with disabilities from birth through age 21, and providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local agencies.

OSERS. (Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services). An office within the U.S. Department of Education committed to improving results and outcomes for people with disabilities of all ages, providing a wide array of supports to individuals, parents, local agencies, and states in the areas of special education, vocational rehabilitation, and research.

OT. (Occupational Therapy).

- P -

PACT. (Public Access Community Television).

PAIR. (Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights). Supports the protection and advocacy system in each state to protect the legal and human rights of individuals with disabilities. The protection and advocacy organization in Texas is Advocacy, Inc.

PAL. (Peer Assistance Leadership Program). A peer-to-peer outreach program in AISD for elementary and secondary students.

PBDMI. (Performance Based Data Management Initiative). A collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Education, state education agencies (SEAs), and industry partners to improve the quality and timeliness of educational information. This initiative will produce an Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN), providing SEAs and the federal government the capacity to transfer and analyze information about educational programs.

PBM. (Performance Based Monitoring). A statistically sound, meaningful set of performance indicators for evaluating student performance, program effectiveness, and data integrity.

PBMAS. (Performance-Based Monitoring Analysis System). A TEA automated data system that reports annually on the performance of school districts and charter schools in selected program areas (bilingual education/English as a second language, career and technical education, special education, and certain Title programs under the No Child Left Behind Act).

PBS. (Positive Behavior Supports). A broad range of systemic and individualized strategies with emphasis on proactive interventions for promoting, teaching, reinforcing, and monitoring positive student behaviors by all adults on campus while preventing problem behavior with all students.

PBX. (Private Branch Exchange). Telephone system within an enterprise that switches calls between users and local lines while allowing all users to share a certain number of external phone lines.

PCPEI. (Policy Committee on Public Education Information). Advisory body to TEA concerning data collection policies and strategies, reviewing all major changes to PEIMS requirements.

PD. (Professional Development).

PDAS. (Professional Development and Appraisal System). State-approved teacher appraisal system, used by AISD.

PDC. (Professional Development Center).

PDF. (Portable Document Format).

PEG. (Public Education Grant). Under the PEG program inter-district transfer provision, a parent of a student enrolled in any low-performing campus or any campus with poor student test performance as identified by TEA may make application to attend a campus in any other school district for the following school year.

PEG. (Public, Education, and Government). Refers to certain television channels.

PEIMS. (Public Education Information Management System). Encompasses all data requested and received by TEA regarding public education, including student demographic and academic performance data, as well as personnel, financial, and other organizational information.

PEMIS EDIT+. Resource for districts and campuses to submit their PEIMS data to TEA via the Internet.

Pell Grant. A type of post-secondary, federal educational grant program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. It is named after U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell and originally known as the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant program. Grants are awarded based on a "financial need" formula determined by Congress using criteria submitted through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

PEP. (Personal Education Plan). Individualized educational goals for a student.

Percent Met Standard. Level at or above the state passing standard (TAKS).

PET. (PID Enrollment Tracking). An extension to PID offering an efficient and reliable way to dynamically track public school student enrollments and withdrawals.

PFAI. (Physical Fitness Assessment Initiative). Program designed to gather physical fitness data of Texas students for analysis in order to determine if there is any correlation between student academic achievement, attendance, obesity, disciplinary problems, and school meal programs.

PGP. (Personal Graduation Plan). An individualized plan developed for each student in middle or high school who does not perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument administered under TEC Chapter 39, Subchapter B, or who is not likely to receive a high school diploma before the fifth school year following enrollment in the ninth grade.

PIA. (Public Information Act). State law that gives the public the right to access government information. See Open Records Request.

PID. (Person Identification System). Used by TEA to manage and store identifying information on individuals who are reported through PEIMS.

Plat. A map showing tracts of land, boundaries, and thoroughfares. A plat is also a map of a subdivision or a site plan.

PLC. (Professional Learning Community). Integral to redesign efforts, a collegial group of administrators and school staff who are united in their commitment to student learning. They share a vision, work and learn collaboratively, visit and review other classrooms, and participate in decision-making. The benefits to the staff and students include a reduced isolation of teachers, better informed and committed teachers, and academic gains for students.

PM. (Project Management.) A group of established processes for managing projects, including scoping (feasibility), planning, implementation, and monitoring.

POD. (Pedestrian Oriented Development). A complement to Transit Oriented Development (TOD), urban design that results in more compact communities and efficient transit systems leading to increased walkability and less dependence on cars.

PODER. (People Organized in the Defense of Earth and her Resources.) Activist organization formed in 1991 to increase the participation of Austin residents in corporate and government decisions related to economic development, environmental hazards, and the impact on neighborhoods. (*Poder* is the Spanish word for power.)

POL. (Principles of Learning). Nine tenets that form the foundation for improving teaching and learning in AISD. Developed by the Institute for Learning at the University of Pittsburgh.

Policy Governance. A school district governance system, adopted by AISD, wherein the Board establishes policy and the Superintendent is charged with conducting the every day business of the district.

Portfolio. A purposeful organization of learner-selected evidence of school and non-school accomplishments.

PPCD. (Pre-School Program for Children with Disabilities). Special education services for children with disabilities ages three through five.

PPP. (Parent Participation Program).

PPVT. (Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test). A multiple-choice test, suitable for young children, designed to measure the respondent's receptive vocabulary, generally interpreted as verbal intelligence. Administration of the test requires no reading by the respondent. The examiner reads aloud a series of stimulus words, and in each case the respondent selects a picture corresponding to the word from a set of four alternatives, the words being arranged within the test in ascending order of difficulty.

Pre-K. (Pre-Kindergarten). State-funded, program for students who are four years of age by September 1 of the school year and who qualify as low income, according to the F/RPM program, or are limited-English proficient.

Professional Employees. See Employee Groups.

Project ADVANCE. (Assess, Decide, Visit, Apply, Now for College Education). AISD initiative to increase college enrollment among high school graduates. A special facilitator is located at each high school campus.

Project HELP. (Homeless Education and Learning Project). AISD initiative to remove barriers in providing services to homeless youth.

Project SMART. (Science, Math, and Reading Tutorials). AISD initiative to provide tutoring by certified teachers in core subject areas to under-performing students.

Protecting You/Protecting Me. A program of MADD in which high school students teach elementary students about the brain, how it works, and how alcohol affects it.

PRS. (Pregnancy Related Services). Support services provided to pregnant students during the pregnancy and postpartum periods which qualify them for the special weight assigned to pregnancy in the formula used to calculate the district's compensatory education allotment. These services are provided to assist the student in adjusting to her pregnancy, thereby increasing her chances of staying in school.

PSA. (Public Service Announcement).

PSAT/NMSQT. (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholars Qualifying Test). Helps students prepare for the SAT, and to enter the competition for scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

PSF. (Permanent School Fund). A perpetual trust fund created by the Texas Constitution. PSF earnings go into the ASF, which the state must apportion on a per capita basis to counties for students enrolled in Texas public schools after funding state textbook purchases. PSF investments include U.S. Treasury bonds, Texas municipal bonds, school district building bonds, and securities. The SBOE administers the fund under constitutional and statutory requirements.

PSS. (Parent Support Specialist). An AISD employee at Title I schools providing a range of services to parents and families.

PT. (Physical Therapy).

PTA. (Parent Teacher Association).

PTR (Pupil-Teacher Ratio). Number of students per teacher per classroom. This is not the average class size; typically, the average class size is higher than the PTR.

PTSA. (Parent Teacher Student Association).

Public School Choice. Under NCLB, students in schools identified as in need of improvement have the option to transfer to higher-achieving public schools in their districts. School districts are required to provide transportation to the students. Priority is given to low-income students.

- Q -

QMS. (Quality Management System). A system of clearly defined organizational structures, processes, responsibilities, and resources used to assure quality.

QZAB. (Qualified Zone Academy Bond). The federal Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 allows for certain schools, known as Education Zone Academies, to finance the equipping and/or renovating of school facilities on an interest-free basis through the allocation of tax credits.

- R -

RAM. (Random Access Memory). The computer memory available to the user for program execution.

RAVE. (Recognizing All Valuable Employees). AISD employee recognition program for outstanding customer service.

Reading First. Federal program focusing on putting proven methods of early reading instruction in classrooms. States and districts receive support to apply scientifically based reading research, and the proven instructional and assessment tools consistent with this research, to ensure that all children learn to read well by the end of third grade.

Recapture. See Chapter 41.

Reconstitution. An accountability sanction requiring the removal or reassignment of some or all campus administrative and/or instructional personnel, and the implementation of a campus redesign.

Read 180. AISD middle school initiative providing an intensive opportunity for the acceleration of language and reading skills that serves the largest number of English Language Learners.

RFA. (Request for Assistance).

RFP. (Request for Proposals).

RFQ. (Request for Qualifications).

RHSP. (Recommended High School Program). AISD expects students to take at least the TEA Recommended High School Program, which requires a minimum of 24 credits for graduation, or the Distinguished Achievement High School Program which requires 24 credits, including three years of language other than English, plus advanced measures.

RI. (Required Improvement). Amount of gain in Percent Met Standard required to meet an x percent accountability standard in y years.

RISE. (Rigor in Spanish and English). AISD elementary school initiative to provide all English Language Learners equal access to the standard curriculum while providing coherent programs in bilingual education or English as a Second Language.

“Robin Hood” Plan. See Chapter 41.

Rollback Rate. A tax rate that would provide roughly the same local taxes and state aid per WADA as was available the previous year, plus debt service taxes, and \$0.06.

ROM. (Read-Only Memory). A storage device built into computer hardware that cannot be altered by the user.

ROPES. (Reality Oriented Physical Experiential Session). An AISD student leadership development program that provides opportunities for students to learn leadership and decision making skills and to foster cooperative group problem solving.

Rosetta Stone. Interactive lessons using videos, pictures, and narration to assist students learning English as a Second Language.

Router. A special-purpose computer (or software package) that handles the connection between two or more networks; routers look at destination addresses and determine on which route to send them.

RPTE. (Reading Proficiency Test in English). Assesses progress in reading at grades 3 through 12 under TELPAS.

RSA. (Rehabilitation Services Administration). Part of the U.S. Department of Education's OSERS that oversees grant programs that assist individuals with physical or mental disabilities to obtain employment and live more independently through the provision of such supports as counseling, medical and psychological services, job training, and other individualized services.

RSS. (Really Simple Syndication). Web feed format used to publish frequently updated content, such as news headlines.

Rubric. Specific criteria or guidelines linked to learning objectives used to evaluate a student's work.

SACS. (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). Accredits more than 12,000 public and private educational institutions, from pre-kindergarten through university level, in 11 southern states and in Latin America.

Safe Harbor. Under NCLB, established math and reading proficiency targets must be met in order to meet AYP. However, a “safe harbor” provision under the act allows for a certain percentage of improvement to also satisfy AYP requirements.

SARA. (School Assignment by Residential Address). AISD automated system for associating a specific address with an assigned school, available on the district website.

SAS. Software used for statistical analysis.

SASlxp. Software used for management of student records.

SAT. (Scholastic Aptitude Test). A standard college entrance examination.

SBDM. (Site-Based Decision-Making)

SBEC. (State Board for Educator Certification). Oversees all aspects of teacher certification, continuing education, and standards of conduct.

SBOE. (State Board of Education). Elected board that oversees the public education system in Texas in accordance with the TEC.

SBP. (School Breakfast Program). Administered by USDA to provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free breakfasts to low-income children each school day.

SB6. See Success By Six.

Scaffolding. An instructional technique in which the teacher breaks a complex task into smaller tasks, models the desired learning strategy or task, provides support as students learn to do the task, and then gradually shifts responsibility to the students. In this manner, a teacher enables students to accomplish as much of a task as possible without adult assistance.

Scanner. A device used to translate printed media into computer language so that a document can be viewed and later read on a computer screen.

SCE. (State Compensatory Education). State funding source for students who are identified as at-risk of dropping out of school.

SCECD. (State Center for Early Childhood Development). The Texas Legislature directed the formation of an SCECD to explore how to better integrate the delivery of early childhood education for three- and four-year-old children at risk for school failure. See CIRCLE.

School choice. Refers to any number of programs allowing parents to send their children to a variety of primary and secondary schools. School choice may be based on

several factors, including the academic standing or rating of schools, or the curriculum and program offerings of schools. To some, school choice is seen as a possible threat to the success or vitality of neighborhood schools.

SCL. (School-to-Community Liaison). Formerly referred to as a Visiting Teacher, an AISD employee with certification as a teacher, counselor, or social worker who provides assistance to designated campuses in communications and relations with students and parents, particularly in problem or crisis situations.

SDAA II. (State Developed Alternative Assessment II). Assessment used for Special Education as an alternative to TAKS, preceded by SDAA.

SDFSC. (Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities). Federal provisions included in Title IV of NCLB supporting programs that: prevent violence in and around schools; prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs; involve parents and communities; and are coordinated with related federal, state, school, and community efforts and resources to foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports student academic achievement, through the provision of federal assistance.

SDIU. (Special Data Inquiry Unit). Investigative arm of TEA.

SEA. (Supported Employment Austin). An Austin area service representing individuals with various disabilities who are seeking employment.

SEA. (State Education Agency). A general term used to designate a state-level education agency.

Search Engine. Software that retrieves information on user-specified parameters.

SECAC. (Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee). AISD advisory group composed of local professionals and parents of students who receive special education services.

Section 501(c)(3). Part of the federal Internal Revenue Code pertaining to tax-exempt nonprofit status.

Section 504. Part of the federal Rehabilitation Act, containing broad provisions for eliminating barriers to full participation by persons with disabilities.

SEEDS. (Special Education Electronic Documents System). Software used to record and report Special Education data.

SEM. (Standard Error of Assessment). Statistical measurement in state accountability system.

SENS. (Statewide Education Notification System). An information delivery system that provides critical and time-sensitive information sent from TEA to Education Service Centers, school districts, charter schools, and others organizations through a variety of communication channels.

Server. A computer that provides some service for other computers connected to it via a network; the most common example is a file server that has a local disc and services requests from remote clients to read and write files on that disc.

SES. (Supplemental Education Services). Free tutoring by parent-selected, TEA-approved providers, available to students who receive free/reduced meals at schools under Stage 2 or higher NCLB improvement status.

SES. (Socio-Economic Status).

SF1. (Summary File 1). The “Short Form” sent to every household for the 2000 Census. Gathers information on name, gender, race, ethnicity, age, relation to head of household, and ownership/rental of home.

SF3. (Summary File 3). The “Long Form” sent to approximately one out of every six households for the 2000 Census. Gathers all SF1 information, plus detailed socio-economic and housing information. (To be renamed the “American Community Survey” and administered annually beginning in 2004.)

SFY. (State Fiscal Year). Begins September 1.

SHAC. (Student Health Advisory Council). A district-level advisory council required by state law to address student health issues and concerns.

Shadowing. A career exploration process that enables a student to follow a worker through a period of time to observe what the worker does on the job.

SHARS. (School Health and Related Services). A Medicaid financing program administered by TEA and HHSC allowing school districts to receive reimbursements for certain health-related services provided to Special Education students.

Sheltered Instruction. Represents a visual, hands-on approach to teaching in the content area using a guarded vocabulary. Sheltered instruction does not reduce nor eliminate the content area curriculum; instead, it tailors the curriculum to LEP students' proficiency in English. In the sheltered class the teacher uses subject matter as a tool for language acquisition.

SHRC. (Science/Health Resource Center). AISD center providing teachers with training, materials, and technical assistance in the areas of science and health.

SIC. (Standard Industrial Classification). See NAICS.

Significant Period. Selected class period or time of day used to record official attendance for purposes of claiming ADA funding from TEA.

SIOP. (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol). Model that provides training for teachers to gain strategies to better support English Language Learners.

SIP. (School Information Partnership). A public-private collaboration designed to empower parents, educators, and policymakers to use NCLB data to make informed decisions and improve school results.

SIP. (School Improvement Plan). A sanction under NCLB requiring schools in need of improvement to develop a two-year corrective plan.

SIRC. (School Improvement Resource Center). Provides statewide technical assistance to Title I schools in improving status under NCLB.

SIS. (Student Information System). General term for an automated system for maintaining student related data.

Site Plan. A map or drawing of a land parcel depicting property lines and current and proposed land uses, as well as a variety of other property features as may be necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable ordinances.

Six Sigma. A quality measure and improvement program developed by Motorola.

Skillpoint Alliance. (Formerly Capital Area Training Foundation). Community organization that builds partnerships between industry, education and the community which lead to college and career success for Central Texans while meeting employers' needs for a qualified workforce.

SLC. (Small Learning Community.) Individualized learning environments within a larger school setting. SLCs create a structure to support constructive relationships among students, teachers, and staff, by grouping students together each year to take core courses with the same group of teachers, thus increasing the support students receive from peers, teachers, and other adults.

SLD. (Specific Learning Disability). A disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which disorder may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations. The term includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. The term does not include a learning problem that is primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, of mental retardation, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.

SLO. (Student Learning Objective). A measurable outcome of student learning; may be used to assess teacher performance.

SLPP. (School Leadership Pilot Program). State accountability sanction (requiring principals to attend training).

SMART. See Project SMART.

SMART. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely). Used in strategic planning to describe optimal goal statements.

Smart Growth. Type of urban planning characterized by mixed land uses, compact development, a range of housing and transportation options, walkable neighborhoods, open space, and infill or redevelopment.

SNAPS. Software used for managing the Free/Reduced Price Meals (F/RPM) program.

SOC. (System of Care). Community based service delivery system that ensures a child-centered and family-focused approach, with the needs of child and family dictating the types and mix of services.

SOP. (Summary of Performance). A summary of a student's academic achievement and functional performance that includes recommendations to assist the student in meeting his or her postsecondary goals.

SOP. (Standard Operating Procedure).

Spam. An inappropriate attempt to use a mailing list or other networked communications facility as if it were a broadcast medium by sending the same message to a large number of people who did not request it.

Special Area Teacher. Art, Music, and Physical Education teachers at the elementary schools.

Special Revenue Fund. An account for certain revenues required to finance particular activities or programs ("dedicated fund").

SpECS. (Special Education Compliance Status).

SpEd. (Special Education)

SPP. (State Performance Plan). The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 requires each state to develop a six-year performance plan to evaluate efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of the act and illustrate how the state will continuously improve upon this implementation.

SRC. (School Report Cards). A subset of AEIS data generated by TEA, and sent to parents by school districts.

SRCS. (School Readiness Certification System). System for certifying the effectiveness of pre-kindergarten programs, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, and government subsidized child care programs in preparing children for kindergarten.

SREB. (Southern Regional Education Board). Founded in 1948 at the request of Southern leaders in business, education and government. The nation's first compact for education.

SRN. (School Redesign Network.) Located at Stanford University, a learning collaborative that helps school leaders to develop a broader knowledge base about school design, teaching and learning, curriculum and assessment, and a deeper understanding of the features of schools that have been successfully redesigned to support excellence and equity

SRO. (School Resource Officer). A law enforcement officer stationed at AISD secondary campuses.

SSCO. (Safe Schools Choice Option). Transfers to be offered to students in a school identified as persistently dangerous under NCLB.

SSI. (Statewide Systemic Initiative). Mathematics and science education reform effort launched by the National Science Foundation. Based on a commitment to systemic reform, the SSI Program provides funding to qualifying states that enable them to make simultaneous changes in multiple components to achieve improved student learning of challenging content.

SSI. (Student Success Initiative). Composite of three initiatives that, together, support academic achievement in reading and mathematics for every student. These three initiatives are the Texas Reading Initiative, the Texas Mathematics Initiative, and the grade advancement requirements in reading and mathematics.

SSI. (Supplemental Security Income). A federal program administered by the Social Security Administration, sometimes called Title 16 benefits. SSI provides cash assistance to individuals who have limited income and resources, and are either age 65 or older, blind, or disabled, including children.

SSIG. (Secondary School Information Guide). A guide with important information for students and parents on how students can be successful in middle and high school; it provides detailed information about the courses offered and the courses a student needs to graduate.

Standard Rating Labels. TEA campus rating levels, including Exemplary, Recognized, Academically Acceptable, and Academically Unacceptable.

StaR Chart. (School Technology and Readiness). The Texas Teacher STaR Chart is designed to help teachers, campuses, and districts determine their progress toward meeting the goals of TEA's Long-Range Plan for Technology, as well as meeting the goals of their district.

STEM. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

STEPS. (Statewide Texas Educational Progress Study). State reports that analyze different aspects of student demographics and school performance.

Strategic Plan. A plan for continuous improvement addressing the most critical issues facing and organization.

Student Groups. Student classifications in federal and state accountability systems, including African-American, Hispanic, White, Economically Disadvantaged, Special Education, Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and All Students.

Success by Six. Network of early childhood coalitions, focused on improving school readiness through community change so young children can come to school ready to succeed. Operating under local United Way organizations, SB6 coalitions are galvanizing business, government, and non-profit leaders around the importance of early learning.

Success Program. Summer program to increase reading and math levels of fourth and fifth grade students.

Sustainability. Meeting the needs of people today without compromising future needs, particularly in terms of environment, society, and economy.

SWOT. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). A type of analysis conducted in a strategic planning process.

- T -

TAAS. (Texas Assessment of Academic Skills). Standard assessment of academic achievement replaced by TAKS.

TAC. (Texas Administrative Code). Codified state regulations for implementation of particular statutes.

TAHPERD. (Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance). Association of professionals and students committed to the development of knowledge and programs that promote active, healthy lifestyles, and enhance skilled, athletic motor performance.

TAKS. (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills). Standard assessment of academic achievement administered at various grade levels covering reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. Satisfactory TAKS performance at grade 11 is a prerequisite for high school graduation.

TAKS-Accommodated. An assessment that is available only to students who receive Special Education services for whom TAKS, even with the allowable accommodations, is not an appropriate measure.

TAKS-Alternate (or TAKS-Alt). An assessment used to meet the required federal requirements of NCLB for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. It is an Alternate Assessment based on Alternate Academic Achievement Standards. Only 1% of the students proficient (passing) TAKS-Alt will count towards Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in federal accountability.

TAKS-I. (TAKS-Inclusive). See TAKS-Accommodated.

TAKS-Modified (or TAKS-M). Measures the academic progress of students with disabilities for whom, even with allowable accommodations, the TAKS or TAKS-Accommodated, are not considered appropriate measures of academic progress. It is an Alternate Assessment based on Modified Academic Achievement Standards. Only 2% of the proficient (passing) students in TAKS-M will count towards Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in federal accountability.

TANF. (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families). Program that provides financial and medical assistance to needy dependent children and the parents or relatives with

whom they are living. Eligible TANF households receive monthly cash and Medicaid benefits. (Formerly Aid to Families with Dependent Children.)

TAP. (Technical Assistance Provider). An identified entity or individual serving as an outside expert providing technical assistance to a campus to improve student achievement under requirements of NCLB.

TARC. (Texas Association of Regional Councils). Umbrella organization for the 24 COGs in Texas.

TASA. (Texas Association of School Administrators). Founded in 1925, membership organization that includes public school superintendents and administrators, education service center staff, college and university professors and students, and others interested in public education.

TASB. (Texas Association of School Boards). Created in 1949, TASB is a voluntary, nonprofit, statewide educational association that serves and represents local Texas school districts.

TASP. (Texas Academic Skills Program). Designed to determine whether Texas students possess the basic skills in reading, writing, and math necessary for success in college courses.

TASSP. (Texas Association of Secondary School Principals).

TAT. (Technical Assistance Team). Required by HB 1, TATs are assigned to campuses found academically acceptable, but which would be academically unacceptable if the following year's criteria were in effect.

TBEC. (Texas Business and Education Coalition). Nonprofit organization that works to bring business and education leaders together to effect improved performance of Texas public education.

TCAD. (Travis Central Appraisal District).

TCASE. (Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education). A professional society that administers and supports special education programs throughout the state of Texas.

TCDD. (Texas Council for the Developmental Disabilities). Ensures that all Texans with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to be independent, productive, and valued members of their communities.

TCEQ. (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality).

TCIP. (Texas Continuous Improvement Process). Annual process that the state uses to continuously identify areas for improvement and implement strategies to improve the provision of special education in Texas.

TCTA. (Texas Classroom Teachers Association). Founded in 1927 by teachers to represent the needs and interests of teachers, TCTA provides professional liability

insurance coverage as well as professional counsel, represents Texas teacher issues at the federal and state levels, and provides teachers relevant professional development, current information, and other services designed specifically for classroom teachers.

TDA. (Texas Department of Agriculture).

TDAD. (Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services). State agency established in 2004 as a result of House Bill 2292 (78th Texas Legislature), which consolidated: mental retardation services and state school programs of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; community care, nursing facility, and long-term care regulatory services of the Department of Human Services; and aging services and programs of the Department on Aging.

TDARS. (Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services). State agency that: administers programs to help Texans with disabilities find jobs through vocational rehabilitation; ensures that Texans with disabilities live independently in their communities; and prepares children with disabilities and developmental delays to meet education goals. A department of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, the department has four divisions: Rehabilitation Services; Blind Services; Early Childhood Intervention Services; and Disability Determination Services.

TDSHS. (Texas Department of State Health Services). State agency that promotes optimal health for individuals and communities while providing effective health, mental health, and substance abuse services to Texans. Created on September 1, 2004, DSHS combined four agencies into one (as directed by HB 2292): Texas Department of Health; Mental Health Programs of Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; and Texas Health Care Information Council.

TEA. (Texas Education Agency). Headed by the Commissioner of Education, this state agency administers state and federal educational programs, monitors educational providers, and provides guidance and technical assistance.

Teacher Development. New Teacher Orientation, Mentor Teacher, and Teacher Leadership are programs designed to address training needs of teachers across their professional careers.

TEC. (Texas Education Code). Codified educational statutes enacted by the Texas Legislature.

TECEC. (Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition).

Tech-Prep. High school courses that award credit-in escrow at the community-college level within a particular career concentration.

TED. (Texas Education Directory). TEA automated directory that provides current organizational and mailing information for public schools (including charter schools and Texas state agency schools), school districts, regional education service centers, and accredited non-public schools in Texas.

TEEG. (Texas Educator Excellence Grant). Part of HB 1 (79th Legislature) providing substantial teacher incentive programs aimed at the state's most economically disadvantaged schools that demonstrate the highest levels of student achievement or improvement.

TEEM. (Texas Early Education Model Demonstration Projects). The goal of the demonstration projects is to find successful ways to integrate early care and education programs so that children enter school ready to learn.

Tejas Lee. Reading assessment of early grade level speakers of Spanish.

TEKS. (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills). State-mandated curriculum, evaluated through TAKS.

TELPOP. (Texas English Language Proficiency Observation Protocol).

TELPAS. (Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System). TEA accountability assessment system combining RPTE and TOP.

TENET. (Texas Educational Network.) Originated in 1991, TENET advances and promotes education in Texas by providing a communications infrastructure which can be used to foster innovation and educational excellence in Texas. TENET is now funded and operated by the University of Texas.

TEPSAC. (Texas Private School Accreditation Commission). Ensures quality in private schools by monitoring and approving organizations that accredit the various non-public elementary and secondary educational institutions in the state.

TERP. (Texas Emissions Reduction Plan). State program offering incentives to voluntarily reduce emissions, as from school buses or facilities, that may lead to air pollution.

Texas Project FIRST. Families, Information, Resources, Support, and Training is an activity of the Texas Continuing Improvement Process (TCIP), and is focused on providing accurate and consistent information to parents and families of students with disabilities.

TexCare. State program offering two separate children's health insurance programs: Children's Health Insurance Program (see CHIP); and Children's Medicaid. Both programs provide health insurance for children at a price that fits the budgets of Texas families. Rates are flexible and based on the number of people in the family and the family's income and expenses.

TEXES. (Texas Examinations of Educator Standards). The exam educators must pass to receive certification. TEXES is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). TEXES replaces the ExCET.

TexMAT. (Texas Examination for Master Teachers). Test for educators desiring master teacher certification.

TGI. (Texas Growth Index). Developed for accountability purposes to evaluate individual student growth from one year to the next on TAKS. The TGI compares how students taking a TAKS subject test in one year perform on the same TAKS subject test in the next higher grade the following year. An individual TGI score indicates the amount of growth for each student in relation to the average growth of all students who performed at the same level in the base year. The TGI score of zero indicates that the year-to-year change in scale score is equal to the average change. The TGI measures growth for a student who passes as well as a student who does not pass the TAKS.

THECB. (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board). State agency created by the Texas Legislature in 1965 to provide leadership and coordination for the Texas higher education system to achieve excellence for the college education of Texas students.

THEO. (Texas Homeless Education Office). Ensures that all Texas children in homeless situations have the opportunity to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school. In its efforts to accomplish this goal, the office provides a variety of services to school districts, education service centers, students, parents, caregivers, service providers, shelters, state agencies, advocates, higher education institutions, and other interested parties.

THHSC. (Texas Health and Human Services Commission). State agency that provides oversight responsibilities for designated health and human Services agencies and administers certain health and human services programs including: Texas Medicaid Program; Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); and Medicaid waste, fraud, and abuse investigations.

Thin Client. An application or product that allows access through any web browser and eliminates the need for software to be loaded on an end-user device.

TIGER. (Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing). A set of files maintained and published by the U.S. Census Bureau containing information regarding streets, cities, census tracts, and census blocks for all 50 states.

TIP. (Total Immersion Program).

Title Programs. See NCLB.

Title IX. Included in the Education Amendments Act of 1972, addressing discrimination based on sex or blindness. *(Not to be confused with Title IX of NCLB.)*

TLCF. (Technology Literacy Challenge Fund). Federal funding provided to the states by the U.S. Department of Education for integrating technology in the classroom.

TOD. (Transit Oriented Development). Also known as Transit Oriented Design, the creation of compact, walkable communities centered around high quality transit systems, making it possible to live a higher quality life without complete dependence on a car for mobility and survival. TOD is seen as a major solution to the serious and growing problems of peak oil and global warming, greatly reducing the need for driving and the burning of fossil fuels.

TOP. (Texas Observation Protocols). Accountability requirement under TELPAS.

TOPT. (Texas Oral Proficiency Test). Certification test for educators teaching Spanish or French at the secondary level, and those teaching students whose first language is Spanish or French.

Touchstone. Ten desired character traits taught incrementally through the AISD Character Education program, including: Respect, Courage, Caring, Honesty, Perseverance, Responsibility, Integrity, Self-Discipline, Trustworthiness, and Fairness.

TPRI. (Texas Primary Reading Inventory). An assessment device designed to facilitate a teacher's capacity to identify students at-risk for reading difficulties in early grades, and to set learning objectives for those students.

TQM. (Total Quality Management). Set of standard management practices geared to ensure that an organization consistently meets or exceeds identified customer requirements. TQM places strong focus on process measurement and controls as a means of continuous improvement.

TRACS. (Texas Review and Comment System). Automated review and comment system for state and federal grant applications maintained by regional councils of governments (COGs).

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. Federal law enacted in 1998 to address comprehensive transportation needs, including infrastructure expansion, safety, environmental protection, and accessibility. Requires regional planning by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

TREx. (Texas Records Exchange). Web-based software application designed for the exchange of electronic student records as required by House Bill 1 (79th Legislature). In using TREx, school registrars have the capability to electronically request and receive student records for students who have attended or will be attending Texas public schools. High school registrars and counselors also have the capability to electronically create and send official student transcripts to Texas public colleges and universities.

TRS. (Teacher Retirement System of Texas).

TSBVI. (Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired).

TSD. (Texas School for the Deaf).

TSDC. (Texas State Data Center). Focal point for the distribution of Census information for Texas, which also provides population estimates and projections.

TSPR. (Texas School Performance Review). School district performance assessments formerly prepared by the State Comptroller of Public Accounts, and now prepared by the LBB.

TSPRA. (Texas School Public Relations Association). A nonprofit, professional organization dedicated to promoting public schools through effective communications. A chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA).

TSSC. (Texas School Safety Center). A school safety training and information center located at Texas State University.

TSU. (Texas State University). Formerly Southwest Texas State University.

TUDA. (Trial Urban District Assessment). One of several studies funded under NCLB to provide district-level assessments of educational progress in reading, math, and science in selected urban school districts across the country.

TUUNA. (Texas Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act).

TWC. (Texas Workforce Commission).

21st Century Program. Under NCLB, a state-administered discretionary grant program to fund after-school programs (“Community Learning Centers”).

TxBESS. (Texas Beginning Educator Support System). An initiative of the State Board of Educator Certification, TxBESS is a comprehensive induction program that has proven to be highly effective in retaining Texas teachers. TxBESS began in 1999.

TxDOT. (Texas Department of Transportation).

TxSRC. Software used for building PEIMS submissions from SASIxp tables.

TxSSC. (Texas School Safety Center). Serves as a central location for school safety information. It provides schools with research, training, and technical assistance to reduce youth violence and promote safety.

TYC. (Texas Youth Commission).

- U -

UIL. (University Interscholastic League). Nonprofit group that organizes and supervises contests for public schools to assist in preparing students to become good citizens. UIL aims to provide healthy, character-building, and educational activities carried out under rules providing for good sportsmanship and fair play.

UpClose. See AISD UpClose.

Urban Infill. Refers to the development or redevelopment of parcels of land already in urbanized areas as opposed to contributing to urban sprawl. Urban infill often results in mixed but compatible land uses and a variety of housing options. Urban infill projects may also be part of community or neighborhood revitalization efforts.

Urban League. See National Urban League.

URL. (Uniform Resource Locator). The standardized direction given to a browser to locate a homepage or Web site.

USAC. (Universal Service Administrative Company). A nonprofit corporation appointed by the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that the benefits of telecommunications services reach students and communities across the country.

USDA. (United States Department of Agriculture).

USDE. (United States Department of Education).

USDHHS. (United States Department of Health and Human Services).

UTEach. Program started in 1997 as a partnership between the UT colleges of Education and Natural Sciences and AISD to encourage students to pursue teacher certification in the fields of math and science.

- V -

VAC. (Vocational Adjustment Class). Work/study program designed to transition students into the world of work.

VAC. (Vocational Adjustment Coordinator). Works with students to successfully transition them into the world of work.

Vertical Team. A group of campuses consisting of a high school and its feeder middle and elementary schools.

VICTORY. (Volunteers in Communities Tutoring Our Responsible Youth). Collaborative tutorial program between ASID and the City of Austin to bring volunteers and students together at public libraries.

Voucher. A document, usually state-issued, that parents can use to pay tuition at an out-of-district public school, a private school, or a religious school. The term is also used more broadly to describe school-choice proposals in which states help pay tuition for children attending private or religious schools.

VR. (Vocational Rehabilitation). A set of services offered to individuals with disabilities designed to enable participants to attain skills, resources, attitudes, and expectations needed to compete in the interview process, get a job, and keep a job.

- W -

WADA. (Weighted Average Daily Attendance). An adjusted student count that compensates for student and district characteristics as defined by statute. Students with special education needs, for example, are “weighted” by a factor ranging from 1.1 to 5.0 times the “regular” program weight in order to fund their special needs.

WAN. (Wide Area Network). A computer network that covers a relatively large area, consisting of two or more LANs.

WBL. (Work-Based Learning). Work-based learning is a planned program of job training and experience that makes use of business and industry sites as part of the school's curriculum.

WEB. (Where Everybody Belongs). A program to transition students to the middle school level.

WIC. (Women, Infants, and Children). Special supplemental nutrition program of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service that serves to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care.

Wraparound Services. Comprehensive array of services offered to students and families, often in partnership between schools and communities, and often involving before- and after-school programs, with the goal of surrounding multi-problem students and families with services rather than with institutional walls, and to customize these services (also referred to as “holistic” or “strength-based” services).

- X, Y, Z -

XY-Zone. A CIS initiative (the XY stands for the male chromosome) working specifically with teen males to help keep them in school and prepare them for a successful future. The project works by developing responsibility, creating community awareness, providing health information, and serving as an outlet for developing positive relationships with parents, peers, adult mentors, and partners.

YFAC. (Youth and Family Assessment Center). A CIS initiative, a community- and school-based program that utilizes the wraparound approach to providing services to children and families.

YRE. (Year-Round Education Program). A program that operates school during a portion of, at a minimum, eleven to twelve calendar months.

Zoning. In community planning terms, zoning refers to the specification of permissible land uses. However, in school planning terms, zoning (or alignment) refers to the determination of school attendance boundaries.