

Introduction

The Office of the Education Ombudsman believes that good communication between families and educators is one of the keys of student academic success. The *Family Dictionary of Education Terms* is a tool developed to help families understand school-related terminology so that they can better communicate with school officials and advocate for their children’s education.

This first edition contains terminology most commonly used in Washington schools however it is not inclusive of all terms related to public education. As we identify missing terms and find new terms, we will include them in future editions.

Let’s also keep in mind that school districts sometimes develop local terminology pertaining to their education practices, geographical location, and the culture of their communities. To reduce the chance of miscommunication, whenever you hear education terms that are new to you, ask the person using the term to define it.

If you have questions or comments regarding the first edition of The Family Dictionary of Education Terms, please contact the Office of the Education Ombudsman at 1-866-297-2597 or at OEOinfo@gov.wa.gov

Visit our Website: www.waparentslearn.org to learn more about OEO and download other publications for parents regarding the public education system.

How to Use This Document

This document is divided into three sections.

- **List of Commonly Used Acronyms**page 3
- **General Education Terms**page 10
- **Special Education Terms**page 29

All sections are organized in alphabetical order. If a term is sometimes referenced by its initials, the term is alphabetically listed, and the initials are shown in parentheses. If a term is generally referred to by its initials, then the initials reference is alphabetized, and the full term is shown in parentheses.

Acknowledgements

We appreciate the contributions made to this publication by our following partners in education:

- The OEO Parent Advisory Council.
- Staff from Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Center for the Improvement of Student Learning (CISL).
- Christie Perkins, Parent Educator and Coordinator of the Special Education Support and Washington State Special Education Training for All programs.