

As with any profession, acronyms are used continually within the organization. A concern arises when those not familiar with the acronyms cannot follow conversations or understand documents due to their inexperience with the organization or profession. Therefore, it is important to refrain from using acronyms with persons or groups who are unacquainted with them. Examples of such persons or groups: Parents, Board Members, Business & Industry Partners. It is good practice to share an acronym list such as the one provided below with groups such as your board or Joint Operating Committee (JOC), staff members or others new to career & technical education if they will be exposed to the terms on a regular basis. This is not to be considered an exclusive list. Each institution may have additional ones to add for their stakeholders' knowledge.

Pennsylvania Career and Technical Education Acronyms

A

ABE: Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc.
A-CAPA: Attendance/Child Accounting Professional Association
ACF: American Culinary Association
ACTE: Association for Career and Technical Education (our field's national association)
ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act (or)
ADA: Average Daily Attendance
ADDA: American Design Drafting Association

ADD/ADHD: Attention Deficit Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
ADM: Average Daily Membership
AED: Automated External Defibrillator
AP: Advanced Placement
APE: Approved Program Evaluation
ASE: Automotive Service Excellence
AUN: Administrative Unit Number
AVTS: Area Vocational-Technical School
AWS: American Welding Association

B

BCTE: Bureau of Career and Technical Education
BEC: Basic Education Circular

C

CATS: Career and Technical Education Information System
CBTE: Competency Based Teacher Education
CCS: Common Core Standards
CDA: Child Development Association
CDT: Classroom Diagnostic Tools
CEW: Career Education and Work standards
CIP: Classification of Instructional Program (codes)
CPR: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CSPG: Certification Staffing Policies Guidelines
CO-OP: Cooperative Education
CTC: Career and Technical Center, formerly Area Vocational Technical School
CTDSL: Career & Technical Distinguished School Leader
CTE: Career and Technical Education
CTSO: Career and Technical Student Organization

D

DECA: A Student Organization for students enrolled in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management programs.

DCED: Department of Community and Economic Development

DO: Diversified Occupation

DOL: Department of Labor

DPW: Pa. Department of Public Welfare

E

EDNA: Education Names and Addresses

EETC: Education & Equipment Training Council

ELA: English Language Acquisition

ELL: English Language Learner (this term is now preferred over ESL, English as a Second Language)

EQ: Emotional Quotient (refers to emotional intelligence)

ETS: Educational Testing Service

EMT: Emergency Medical Technician

F

FAPE: Free Appropriate Public Education

FBLA: Future Business Leaders of America

FCCLA: Family, Career and Community Leaders of America

FERPA: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

FFA: An Association of Agriculture Education Students

FID: Flexible Instructional Day

FRPI: Future Ready PA Index

G

GAERF: Graphic Arts Education & Research Foundation

GED: General Equivalency Diploma

GPA: Grade Point Average

GIEP: Gifted Individualized Education Plan

H

HBA: Home Builders Association

HOSA: Future Health Professionals

HPO: High Priority Occupation

HIPPA: Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act

HSTW: High Schools That Work

I

IDEA: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

IDOL: In-demand Occupational List

IEP: Individual Education Plan, a legally binding document that addresses the special education needs of a student.

IU: Intermediate Unit

J

JOC: Joint Operating Committee

JSC: Joint School Committee

L

LAC: Local Advisory Committee (sometimes referred to as GAC: General Advisory Council)

LEA: Local Education Agency

LEP: Limited English Proficiency

LRE: Least Restrictive Environment

M

MACS: Mobile Air Conditioning Society
MAVCC: Multistate Academic and Vocational Curriculum Consortium
MOS: Microsoft Office Specialist

N

NA: Nursing Assistant (formerly CNA)
NATEF: National Automotive Education Foundation
NBS: NOCTI Business Solutions
NCCER: National Center for Construction Education and Research
NIMS: National Institute of Metalworking Skills (Or)
NIMS: National Incident Management System
NOCTI: Formerly National Occupational Competency Testing Institute
NRF: National Retail Federation
NTHS: National Technical Honors Society

O

OAC: Occupational Advisory Committee
OCA: Occupational Competency Assessment
OPE: Outdoor Power Equipment
OSHA: Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OVAE: Office of Vocational and Adult Education

P

PAC: Professional Advisory Council
PACTA: Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators
PASA: Pennsylvania Alternative System of Assessment (or)
PASA: Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators
PASBO: Pennsylvania Association Business Officials
PBA: Project-Based Assessment (or)
PBA: Pennsylvania Builders Association
PBL: Project-Based Learning (may also refer to problem-based learning)
PDE: Pennsylvania Department of Education
PENN*LINK: PDE's electronic mail system
PennSPRA: PA School Public Relations Association
PERMS: Professional Education Record Management System
PIL: Pennsylvania Inspired Leader Program
PIMS: Pennsylvania Information Management System
POS: Program of Study
PPC: Perkins Participatory Committee (no longer used)
PPE: Personal Protective Equipment
PPID: Professional Personal Identification number
PSBA: Pennsylvania School Boards Association
PSC: Pennsylvania Skill Certificate
PSSA: Pennsylvania System of School Assessment
PVAAS: Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System
PYFA: Pennsylvania's Young Farmers Association

R

RCA: Residential Construction Academy
RTII: Response to Instruction and Intervention

S

SAC: Superintendent Advisory Council
SAS: Standards Aligned System
SD: School District
SkillsUSA: CTE Students Organization
SLO: Student Learning Objective
SOC: Standard Occupational Classification
SOAR: Students Occupationally and Academically Ready
SREB: Southern Region Education Board
SSID: Statewide Student Identifier
STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (if
STEAM, A is for Arts)
STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics

T

TAP: Technical Assistance Program
TCTW: Technical Centers That Work
TIMS: Teacher Information Management System
TSA: Technology Student Association for students enrolled in
STEM programs.

V

VADM: Vocational Average Daily Membership
CTE ADM: Career & Technical Education Average Daily
Membership

W

WIOA: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
WIB: Workforce Investment Board (WDB: Workforce
Development Board)
WBE: Work-Based Education
WBL: Work-Based Learning
WDB: Workforce Development Board
WOW: World Organization of Webmasters
WTTI: Welder Training & Testing Institute