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| 6. Special Education  *MA 603 CMR 28.20* | Specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of the eligible student or related services necessary to access the general curriculum and shall include the programs and services set forth in state and federal special education law. |
| 3. Free and Appropriate Public Education  *IDEA* [*Sec. 602(9)*](http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/%2Croot%2Cstatute%2CI%2CA%2C602%2C9%2C) | Special Education and related services that—  A) have been provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without charge;  B) meet the standards of the State educational agency;  C) include an appropriate preschool, elementary, or secondary school education in the State involved; and  D) are provided in conformity with the individualized education program. |
| 11. Specially Designed Instruction  *IDEA* [*Sec. 300.39(b)(3)*](http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/%2Croot%2Cregs%2C300%2CA%2C300%252E39%2Cb%2C3%2C) | Adapting, as appropriate to the needs of an eligible child … the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction – to address the unique needs of the child that result from the child’s disability; and to ensure access of the child to the general curriculum, so that he or she can meet the educational standards within the jurisdiction of the public agency that apply to all children. |
| 23. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act | Comprehensive federal education effort on behalf of children and youth with disabilities. |
| 24. Communication Impairment  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | The capacity to use expressive and/or receptive language is significantly limited, impaired, or delayed and is exhibited by difficulties in one or more of the following areas: speech, such as articulation and/or voice; conveying, understanding, or using spoken, written, or symbolic language. The term may include a student with impaired articulation, stuttering, language impairment, or voice impairment if such impairment adversely affects the student's educational performance. |
| 13. A Child with A Disability  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | A child with autism, developmental delay, intellectual impairment, hearing impairment or deaf, speech or language impairments, vision impairment or blind, deafblind, neurological impairment, emotional impairment, communication impairment, physical impairment, health impairment or specific learning disability. |
| 4. Autism  *IDEA* [*Sec. 300.8(c)(1)(i)*](http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/%2Croot%2Cregs%2C300%2CA%2C300%252E8%2Cc%2C1%2Ci%2C) | A developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age three, that adversely affects a child's educational performance. |
| 8. Individualized Education Program – IEP  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | A written statement, developed and approved in accordance with federal special education law in a form established by the Department that identifies a student's special education needs and describes the services a school district shall provide to meet those needs. |
| 12. Health Impairment  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | A chronic or acute health problem such that the physiological capacity to function is significantly limited or impaired and results in one or more of the following: limited strength, vitality, or alertness including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli resulting in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment. The term shall include health impairments due to asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention deficit with hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, and sickle cell anemia, if such health impairment adversely affects a student's educational performance. |

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| 1. Eligible Student  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | A person aged three through 21 who has not attained a high school diploma or its equivalent, who has been determined by a Team to have a disability(ies), and as a consequence is unable to progress effectively in the general education program without specially designed instruction or is  unable to access the general curriculum without a related service. |
| 21. Developmental Delay  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | The learning capacity of a young child (3-9 years old) is significantly limited, impaired, or delayed and is exhibited by difficulties in one or more of the following areas: receptive and/or expressive language; cognitive abilities; physical functioning; social, emotional, or adaptive functioning; and/or self-help skills. |
| 16. Least Restrictive Environment – LRE  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | The educational placement that assures that, to the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities, including students in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with students who are not disabled, and that special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of students with disabilities from the general education environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the student's disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. |
| 22. Neurological Impairment  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | The capacity of the nervous system is limited or impaired with difficulties exhibited in one or more of the following areas: the use of memory, the control and use of cognitive functioning, sensory and motor skills, speech, language, organizational skills, information processing, affect, social skills, or basic life functions. The term includes students who have received a traumatic brain injury. |
| 20. Physical Impairment  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | The physical capacity to move, coordinate actions, or perform physical activities is significantly limited, impaired, or delayed and is exhibited by difficulties in one or more of the following areas: physical and motor tasks; independent movement; performing basic life functions. The term shall include severe orthopedic impairments or impairments caused by congenital anomaly, cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures, if such impairment adversely affects a student's educational performance. |
| 25. Transition Services  *IDEA 34 CFR 300.43 (a)* | A coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that:   * Is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child’s movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment); continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation; * Is based on the individual child’s needs, taking into account the child’s strengths, preferences, and interests; and * Includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and, if appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation. |
| 19. Progress effectively in the general education program  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | \_\_\_\_ shall mean to make documented growth in the acquisition of knowledge and skills, including social/emotional development, within the general education program, with or without accommodations, according to chronological age and developmental expectations, the individual educational potential of the student, and the learning standards set forth in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and the curriculum of the district. The general education program includes preschool and early childhood programs offered by the district, academic and non-academic offerings of the district, and vocational programs and activities. |

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| 14. Intellectual Impairment  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | The permanent capacity for performing cognitive tasks, functions, or problem solving is significantly limited or impaired and is exhibited by more than one of the following: a slower rate of learning; disorganized patterns of learning; difficulty with adaptive behavior; and/or difficulty understanding abstract concepts. Such term shall include students with mental retardation. |
| 2. Hearing Impairment or Deaf  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | The capacity to hear, with amplification, is limited, impaired, or absent and results in one or more of the following: reduced performance in hearing acuity tasks; difficulty with oral communication; and/or difficulty in understanding auditorally-presented information in the education environment. The term includes students who are deaf and students who are hard-of-hearing. |
| 9. Massachusetts Special Education Regulation  *MA 603 CMR 28.00* | \_\_\_\_\_ governs the provision by Massachusetts public schools of special education and related services to eligible students and the approval of public or private day and residential schools seeking to provide special education services to publicly funded eligible students. The requirements set forth in 603 CMR 28.00 are in addition to, or in some instances clarify or further elaborate, the special education rights and responsibilities set forth in state statute (M.G.L. c. 71B), federal statute (20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq. as amended), and federal regulations (34 CFR §300 et seq. as amended). |
| 18. Emotional Impairment  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | As defined under federal law at 34 CFR §300.8(c)(4), the student exhibits one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects educational performance: an inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors; an inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers; inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances; a general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression; or a tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems. The determination of disability shall not be made solely because the student's behavior violates the school's discipline code, because the student is involved with a state court or social service agency, or because the student is socially maladjusted, unless the Team determines that the student has a serious emotional disturbance. |
| 10. Vision Impairment or Blind  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | The capacity to see, after correction, is limited, impaired, or absent and results in one or more of the following: reduced performance in visual acuity tasks; difficulty with written communication; and/or difficulty with understanding information presented visually in the education environment. The term includes students who are blind and students with limited vision. |
| 7. Specific Learning Disability  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | The term means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations. Use of the term shall meet all federal requirements given in federal law at 34 CFR §§300.8(c)(10) and 300.309. |
| 5. Related Services  *IDEA* [*Sec. 602(26)*](http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/%2Croot%2Cstatute%2CI%2CA%2C602%2C26%2C) | \_\_\_\_\_ means transportation, and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services (including speech-language pathology and audiology services, interpreting services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, recreation, including therapeutic recreation, social work services, school nurse services designed to enable a child with a disability to receive a free appropriate public education as described in the individualized education program of the child, counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling, orientation and mobility services, and medical services, except that such medical services shall be for diagnostic and evaluation purposes only) as may be required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education, and includes the early identification and assessment of disabling conditions in children. |
| 15. Sensory Impairment – Deafblind  *MA 603 CMR 28.02* | Concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes severe communication and other developmental and educational needs. |