

# Glossary of Acronyms & Definitions

Florida Authorizer Bootcamp

Supporting District-Led Authorizers to Promote Quality and Access

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## ACRONYMS

Below are common acronyms used throughout the Bootcamp sessions and related materials. The following section further defines some of these terms.

- **ACCESS** — the Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ELL) test
- **CARES Act** — the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act
- **CMO** — a charter management organization
- **CSO** — a charter support organization
- **CSP** — the Federal Charter School Program
- **ED** — the U.S. Department of Education
- **ELL** — English language learner
- **ELA** — English Language Arts
- **EMO** — an education management organization
- **ESSA** — the Every Student Succeeds Act
- **ESE** — Elementary and Secondary Education
- **ESSER Funds** — Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief
- **ESOL** — English for Speakers of Other Languages
- **FACSA** — the Florida Association of Charter School Authorizers
- **FAPE** — a Free and Appropriate Public Education
- **FDOE** — the Florida Department of Education
- **FDLRS** — the Florida Diagnostics and Learning Resources System
- **FEFP** - the Florida Education Finance Program
- **FSA** — the Florida Standards Assessment.<sup>i</sup>
- **FTE** — full-time equivalent (referring to student enrollment)
- **IDEA** — the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- **IEP** — an Individual Education Plan
- **LEA** — a local education agency



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- **LRE** — the Least Restrictive Environment
- **NACSA** — the National Association of Charter School Authorizers
- **RFA** — a request for applications
- **RFP** — a request for proposals
- **SBE** — the State Board of Education

## DEFINITIONS

- **Capital Outlay Funding** — funds annually allocated to eligible charter schools.
- **Charter School Appeal Commission** — a committee of members appointed by the commissioner who assists the state board of education in reviewing appeals by applicants whose charter applications have been denied.<sup>ii</sup>
- **Charter school authorizer (authorizer)** — local school districts, colleges, and universities are permitted to authorize charter schools in Florida.
- **Charter school authorizer staff (authorizer staff)** — individuals employed by the authorizer and are charged with:
  - monitoring charter schools' performance,
  - working with school staff and governing boards in executing the renewal process,
  - preparing renewal findings and recommendations for local school boards of education as they review renewal applications, and
  - negotiating with a school's governing boards on charter renewal contracts.
- **Charter school governing board (governing board)** — the board members that oversee charter schools' day-to-day activities, including the education program, operations, and financial activities.
- **Charter school leadership (school leadership)** — a charter school principal and/or other leadership staff who work with the school's governing board and authorizer staff to facilitate the renewal process (i.e., initial renewal discussions and scheduling, providing the requisite body of evidence submissions, preparing for site visits, and scheduling staff interviews).
- **Charter school renewal decision appeal** — an action taken by a charter school/governing board to refute an authorizer's renewal decision and/or the length of renewal contract term.
- **Charter school sponsor** — the authorizing body of a charter school.
- **Charter Schools-in-a-Municipality** — charter schools that are sponsored by local school districts in partnership with a municipality.<sup>iii</sup>
- **Conversion Charter Schools** — traditional public schools that have been converted into charter schools.<sup>iv</sup>
- **English language learners (ELLs or ELs)** — a student who “has sufficient difficulty speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language to deny him or her the opportunity to learn successfully in classrooms in which the language of instruction is in English.”<sup>v</sup>

- **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** — federal law passed in December 2015 that governs the country’s K–12 public education policy and replaced its predecessor, the No Child Left Behind Act.
- **Florida Charter School Statute** — Florida Statute (F.S.) § 1002.33.
- **Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)** — the special education and related services needed to meet a students’ needs as identified by the individualized education program team.<sup>vi</sup>
- **Governing Board:** A charter school’s governing body.
- **High-Performing Charter School:** A charter school that meets the definition in 1002.331: received two consecutive grades of “A” and has an annual audit for three years with no financial emergency situations.
- **High-Performing Charter School System:** A municipality or public entity, private non-profit corporation, or a private for-profit education management corporation that meets the definition in 1002.331: at least 50% of schools have received two consecutive grades of “A” and has an annual audit for three years with no financial emergency situations.<sup>vii</sup>
- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** — a federal law that makes available a “free appropriate public education” to all eligible children with disabilities and ensures the provision of special education and related services to those students.<sup>viii</sup>
- **Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)** — a federal mandate requiring that — to the maximum extent possible — students with disabilities are educated with their non-disabled peers.<sup>ix</sup>
- **Local boards of education (district board)** — district boards review charter schools’ renewal materials and the recommendations provided by authorizer staff when determining whether to renew, revoke, or nonrenew a school’s charter contract.
- **State Board of Education (SBE)** — a committee of members appointed by the Florida governor to guide and direct the public K–12, community college and state college education in Florida.

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<sup>i</sup> F.S. § 1008.22.

<sup>ii</sup> F.S. § 1008.22(6)(e)(1).

<sup>iii</sup> F.S. § 1008.22(15).

<sup>iv</sup> F.S. § 1008.22(3)(b).

<sup>v</sup> 2013-14 English Language Learners (ELLs) Database and Program Handbook, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7750/urlt/0081068-1314-ell-databaseprogramhandbook.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> 34 CFR § 300.17.

<sup>vii</sup> 20 U.S.C. Code § 1401(14); 34 CFR §§ 300.22, 300.320 to 300.324.

<sup>viii</sup> Congress reauthorized the IDEA in 2004 and most recently amended the IDEA through Public Law 114-95, the Every Student Succeeds Act, in December 2015.

<sup>ix</sup> 34 CFR § 300.114.