Glossary

A

Ability grouping
Type of grouping where students are placed together according to their skill level Ability grouping is a type of homogenous grouping.

Accelerated
A student's studies are advanced to allow passing through content quickly; moving through learning at a faster pace

Accommodation
Creating or revising the schemata to incorporate a new type of experience

Achievement test
A standardized test designed to measure skill proficiency in a given subject

Active engagement
Participating in the current activity; being actively involved in the current learning process

Adaptation
Creating a good fit or match between one's conception of reality and one's real-life experiences

Adapted curriculum
Changing the course of study to meet the needs of the students

Advanced organizer
A technique which recalls the previous learning and then relates that to the new material to be taught in order to make the new material meaningful. An advanced organizer is designed to bridge the gap between what the learner already knows and what he needs to know before he can successfully learn a new task.

Age appropriate
Vocabulary, lessons, activities, etc. that fit the development, language and ability level of the child

Align
To adjust so a proper relationship exists Example: aligning the curriculum with a high stakes assessment

Alternative assessment
A type of evaluation other than a conventional test Example: using portfolios, reflective journals or presentations

Analogy
A comparison of similarities between ideas generally considered to be unalike
Example: Reading is like riding a bicycle; once you learn how, you never forget!

Analysis
(Bloom's Taxonomy) Taking knowledge apart to understand how it fits together

Anecdotal records
A process of taking notes on a particular student over a carefully planned period of time; an ongoing record kept throughout the year; may indicate that a student has correctly mastered or applied concepts

Anticipatory set
Action by the teacher at the start of class to grab the students' attention by relating the experiences of the students to the objective of the lesson, also known as a sponge activity or focus activity

Application
(Bloom's Taxonomy) applying what is known to solve a problem

ARD (Admission, Review, and Dismissal) Committee
A team that determines a student's eligibility for special education services
A student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) is reviewed and a decision is made about when the student will enter, continue or be dismissed from special education services.

Assessment
A process for checking for student understanding or learning that can be done in an oral or written format and is not necessarily graded

Assimilation
Fitting new experiences into concepts already in the schemata

Assistive technology
A wide range of technological devices developed to help children with special needs improve their daily lives
Example: a speech synthesizer

At risk
A student who is at some type of disadvantage and is having difficulty mastering

curriculum; also refers to students who have developmental problems which may affect later learning
An at risk student is "at risk" of dropping out of school due to the disadvantages.

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)
A disorder causing difficulty with concentration, impulsivity, being easily distracted and excitable
This disorder is generally diagnosed more frequently in males than females. It cannot be outgrown, but it can be treated with one of several doctor prescribed medications. If a child is having difficulty concentrating or focusing along with the hyperactivity component, it is referred to as ADHD. ADHD is a behavioral disorder while ADD is a form of learning disorder.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
Similar to ADD but includes the symptom of hyperactivity or physical restlessness

Auditory
Learning assimilation by hearing

Authentic assessment
Using evaluation procedures that measure exactly what learning has occurred; relating evaluations to real world problem solving
Methods of assessment that emphasize learning and thinking, especially higher-order thinking skills such as problem-solving strategies
Authentic assessment utilizes activities that require children to demonstrate what they know and are able to do; authentic assessment does not compare one student to another and is also called performance based assessment. Example: At the end of a unit on transportation, the students paint a mural of how transportation has evolved.

B

Balanced, comprehensive reading approach
Reading instruction that includes phonics, whole language, sight words, language experience, basal readers, oral and silent reading, creative writing, and quality children's literature

Basal reading program
Grade-leveled textbook series with controlled vocabulary, children's story literature, specific skills, teachers' manuals and supplementary aids

Base score
A percentage score calculated by averaging several test scores together to provide a

stable indicator of content area mastery

Behavioral approach
Motivating students through rewards or punishment

Belief
Something that a person believes to be true, even if it isn't. Your behavior will be based on your beliefs. A simple example is a child who fears the "Boogie Man" and so hides under his bed.

Bilingual education
Education of students whose first language is something other than English

Bilingual Education Act
Passed in 1968 to provide federal funds for bilingual education programs
This act was a part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1968, which was a part of Title VII.

Block Scheduling
An approach to scheduling classes that allow classes to meet for longer periods of time each day, but in which students take fewer classes on a daily basis

Bloom's taxonomy
(Benjamin Bloom) a classification tool developed to categorize learning from low-level thinking (simple recall) to very high level thinking (evaluation). The six levels from lowest to highest are knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation (or evaluating and creating in the new version).

C

Child Find
The state organization that identifies and diagnoses unserved children with disabilities, especially ages birth – 6 year olds

Choral reading
Oral group reading

Classroom Climate
The way a classroom looks and feels
The teacher is ultimately responsible for the classroom climate.

Classroom Environment
All things that encompass the surroundings of the classroom – lights, temperature,

displays, furniture arrangement, etc.
It also includes the affective domain of the environment in the classroom, i.e., friendliness, respect, tone, authority, etc.

Classroom management
The process of how a teacher manages the entire classroom from environment to guidance of the students; everything a teacher does within and to the classroom that facilitates effective and efficient instruction

Closure
Act of reviewing and clarifying key points in a lesson, tying them together and securing them in the students' conceptual network

Cognitive development
Development of the intellect

Common Core
National curriculum standards for English and math intended to provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students learn in a given grade. Have been adopted in 42 of 50 U.S. states.

Compensatory education
Providing educational support; special components of the educational system for students with some type of disadvantage, such as early learning programs or special programs for students at risk.
Can also refer to remediation.

Competency
A competency is a required skill, knowledge, ability or capability a student will master or has mastered

Comprehension
(Bloom's Taxonomy) the act of understanding

Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI)
A computer based presentation of information such as the accelerated Reader Series

Concept
A generalized idea of a category
Examples: tiger, car, economy, or primate

Constructed response
Open-ended; students are required to develop their own response

Constructivism
A theory based on the idea that students build understanding by being active in the learning process, experiencing and constructing their own ideas (Piaget, Bruner)

Content validity
How well a test measures what it was designed to measure; standardized tests must have content, predictive or construct validity

Continuing Professional Education (CPE)
A part of the ongoing education of professionals

Cooperative learning
Organizing groups of students (4 – 6 diverse, heterogeneous students per group) to work together on a problem-solving project

Criterion-referenced assessment
A standardized measure of specific skill or content mastery; usually used to determine what students know or can do in a specific domain or skill area rather than how their score compares to others

Critical thinking
Using evaluative tools to make a decision or judgment

Cultural pluralism
Respecting divergent cultural groups within a society

Culturally relevant teaching
A theory based on teachers having a genuine understanding of cultures, values, traditions and experiences and how these effect the student's perspective and guide how students relate to the world
Teachers must invest time in understanding the cultural values, traditions and perspectives of the students they serve.

Curriculum
Course objectives or competencies

Curriculum Based Assessment (CBA)
Generally a criterion referenced test, this type of assessment measures the student's progress through the given curriculum

D

Derived score
the score obtained by comparing the raw score to the performance of others of known characteristics on a standardized test

Differentiation/Differentiated Instruction
Modifying teaching strategies to meet a student's individual needs. Differentiated instruction emphasizes the teacher's knowledge of his or her students.

Direct instruction
Teaching provided by the teacher; the teacher explains and models, then the students practice and the teacher evaluates

Directed reading
Reading assignments with stated pre-reading purpose and strategy

Disability
Being handicapped in some way, including physically, mentally or emotionally
Also called: differently-abled (so as to focus on what a child can accomplish); special needs; or exceptional child(ren)

Discipline
A branch of knowledge; the subject areas
Example: mathematics, science, social studies, language arts, etc.

Drill and practice
The technique of learning something and then repeatedly doing what was learned

Due process
Actions taken to protect educational rights of students

Dyslexia
A life-long, language-based learning disability which causes confusion in orientation of letters, hampering one's ability to interpret written language which results in reading problems
While the cause is unknown, dyslexia does run in families and is most common in boys.

E

Educator Support System
Anyone and any organization that provides guidance and encouragement for

educators and students

Educator's code of ethics
The standards which all educators must adhere to in relation to their ethical conduct
These standards are set and monitored by the state boards of education

Efficacy
Being effective; obtaining a goal

Empirical data
Data that can be seen, heard, smelled, touched or tasted – data dependent on experience or observation; visible real behaviors

Empowerment
The act of making powerful. In education, this refers to giving students the ability to make decisions about their learning.

Enrichment
A method of increasing meaningfulness whereby students are assigned more challenging academic content
Usually used when referring to gifted and talented students.

Entry Level Educators
First-year educators

Epistemic
The act of knowing

Epistemology
The study of knowledge and its origins

Equilibrium
The tendency to organize schemata to allow for better understanding of experiences

English as a Second Language (ESL)/English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
A program for teaching the English language to children whose first language is not English

Essentialism
A philosophy that believes schools should teach selected elements of the culture to succeeding generations

Ethical Behavior
Acting in the highest moral principles and values
Part of being a professional is acting ethically and always doing the right thing or making the best possible choice.

Ethnicity
One's nationality or heritage
Example: African American, Asian, Caucasian, Hispanic, etc.

Evaluation
(Bloom's taxonomy) Critical thinking that involves making and supporting judgments; the process of gathering information or criteria in order to make decisions or judgments about a learning experience; determining the value of a lesson

Exhibitions of mastery
Having the signs of understanding of a particular subject at a specified level; proving that one understands completely materials or concepts

Existentialism
A philosophy that is concerned with developing the individual student to search for meaning of his existence in an irrational world
The curriculum could be anything negotiated between the student and teacher.

Explicit Curriculum
All subjects taught in school as prescribed by the state

Extrinsic motivation
Wanting to do something, behaving in a certain way or achieving something because of some type of external reward which results in personal gain
Teachers often give prizes to motivate students extrinsically.

F

Fact
Something that was true at one point in time and is not transferable to another situation

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (1974) (FERPA)
A federal law outlining the protection of privacy rights for parents or legal guardians of children; sometimes referred to as the Buckley Amendment
The main concept of this law is confidentiality.

Fire wall
A system that prevents unauthorized access
All messages entering or leaving pass through this wall and are examined for security criteria.

Formal assessment
Measuring skill acquisition by means of some type of standardized evaluation such as a norm-referenced or criterion-referenced test

Formative assessment
Monitoring progress before and during learning to guide any necessary adjustments and the pace of the learning
Example: a teacher using rating scales or checklists

Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
A provision (PL 101-476 Individuals with Disabilities Act passed in 1990, revised in 1997 PL 105-17) which mandates a free and appropriate education (the most normal possible) program for children ages 3 – 21 years.

Full inclusion
Having and providing all of the necessary support and services at a particular school that a special needs student might require

G

Generalization
A statement that is true most of the time and can be proven
Examples: If the supply of a product exceeds the demand for that product, price will go down.

Gifted and talented
Children who show potential for above average achievement in academics, creativity, artistic or leadership areas
Gifted often refers to leadership and academics, while talented refers to artistic ability and creativity.

Grouping
Placing students together in order to accomplish something

Guided practice
Students practice learning activities directed and monitored by the teacher

H

Hands-on activities
Activities designed so that students actually perform the planned activity for themselves

Head Start
Initially a federally funded program (Economic Opportunity Act of 1964) for low socio-economic children to provide them an opportunity to have a head start in learning in order to overcome the effects of poverty during their early years

Heterogeneous grouping
Grouping together diverse students; ideally, 4 – 6 students working together with differing ethnicity, gender and academic levels

Hidden Curriculum
Also called implicit or informal curriculum; knowledge that is constructed from peers, interactions and experiences in school outside of the formal (explicit) curriculum; learning that takes place in addition to the school curriculum; nonacademic learning

Hierarchy of needs
The levels of need each person has that must be satisfied in order for learning to occur
Created by Maslow
The lower levels are basic needs (food, shelter, safety, the need to belong and a sense of self) and the achievement needs are knowledge, understanding, and aesthetics (a sense of order or balance to things.) The highest level is self-actualization, which means being one's true self and not needing acceptance or approval from others.

High expectations
Expecting ALL students to learn to a high level despite their backgrounds
It has been found that students will work toward the teacher's expectations.

High-yield strategies
Approaches to classroom organization and human learning which research indicates make a predictable difference in student learning and performance

Higher order questions
Questions that engage the child in thinking critically

Holistic
Consideration in entirety; relating to the whole child

Hyperlink
The connection between web pages linking one to another
Hyperlinks are the essential part of all hypertext systems.

Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)
Defines how messages are formatted and transmitted over the internet
HTTP is the underlying protocol used by the world wide web.

I

Inclusion
Educating special needs children, if possible, in the regular education classroom rather than separating them into special education classrooms; also referred to as mainstreaming
Neither of these terms appear in the actual part of IDEA law that refers to this concept. Students with special needs must be placed in the least restrictive environment (LRE) whenever possible.

Independent practice
Occurs once students have mastered the content or skill and is used to reinforce the learning

Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
A written educational plan for a special needs student developed by professionals and the child's parents
The IEP is updated annually and describes the child's progress and needed services.
See Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Individualized instruction
Structuring learning around a particular student based on his/her interests, needs and/or abilities

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, P.L. 101-476, passed in 1990)
A federal law mandating a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for disabled children. This law has been amended most recently in 1997 (PL 105-17.) FAPE guarantees a free and appropriate education for ages 3 to 21 years; an IEP (Individual Education Plan) must be created for individualizing each special needs child's instruction; special education students must be placed in the least restrictive environment (LRE); part H of IDEA provides funds for early intervention for infants and toddlers and the IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan) specifies the right for families to receive services (such as nursing, physical therapy, nutrition, occupational

therapy, psychological services, social work services, special instruction, speech, vision, transportation and related costs, etc.) if their infant or toddler has special needs.

Informal Curriculum
Also called implicit or hidden curriculum; learning that occurs in addition to the school curriculum; all the things students learn while at school besides what is actually being formally taught by the teacher

Inservice Training
Conferences, workshops, lectures, etc. held by school districts and their related partnerships in order to keep educators updated on their profession
Teachers are required to obtain a prescribed number of hours of training in order to keep their certification current.

Instructional grouping
Placing small numbers of students together to enhance learning
This technique also aids the teacher in guiding the students. Cooperative learning groups are effective examples of this type of grouping.

Integrated Curriculum
Also called interdisciplinary curriculum; relating a particular theme or unit of study to many different disciplines
Example, for the study of spiders, students will use spiders as counters for division in math; make a yarn web for spiders in art; build a model of spiders and identify body parts in science; read Charlotte's Web and write poems about spiders for language arts and make up whole body movements while singing Itsy Bitsy Spider in music.
Intrinsic motivation
A desire to do something that comes from within oneself; the opposite of extrinsic motivation
Example: Learning for the sake of learning.

K

Kinesthetic
Learning assimilation by whole body movement. According to Gardner's Multiple Intelligences, kinesthetic learners learn by doing, moving their bodies or by manipulating objects to gain a better understanding of the concept

Knowledge
(Bloom's Taxonomy) simple recall of information

L

Labeling
Categorizing a student; associating a student as a means of identification

Language experience approach
An approach to reading instruction based on activities and stories developed from personal experiences of the learner
The stories about personal experiences are written down by a teacher and read together until the learner associates the written form of the word with the spoken.

Learner-Centered
The learning activity or concept is based on the abilities, needs and learning style of students; centered on the child

Learning disability
Having difficulty learning in a specific area without showing any outward signs such as mental retardation or physical problems
Often these children have difficulty processing information making it hard for them to learn to read, spell words correctly or solve math problems. Two examples are dyslexia (difficulty in learning how to read) and Attention Deficit Disorder (having difficulty focusing attention)

Learning style
The individual process by which a student interacts with, and responds to the learning environment; how a student acquires knowledge
Some children must see to learn, others must do to learn, some need to merely hear information while others need to be physically involved in order to learn. Learning style also includes such things as the ability of a student to process information, the climate in the classroom, grouping preferences, etc.

Lesson plan
The prescribed process the teacher will follow in order to teach a concept or idea

Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
A term describing students whose native language is something other than English and who has difficulty understanding and performing tasks given in the English language

M

Mean
The arithmetic average of a group of scores

Meaningful learning
When new information or learning activities are made relevant by relating them to personal interests and prior experiences or knowledge

Metacognition
Thinking about thinking; understanding oneself in relation to motives, internal beliefs, thoughts, and other internal and external factors that influence one's thinking
Older students are able to better understand how they think and to utilize thinking strategies to problem solve.

Mnemonics
Strategy for memorization using word games, acronyms, or object fixation

Modeling
Showing how to do something or what is expected; having students imitate a step-by-step process in a lesson
Parental and teacher behaviors are constant models for students. If students see parents or teachers treating others with respect, they will imitate respect. Likewise, if they see others treated with disrespect, they will do the same.

Modification
A change in a lesson made to accommodate the needs of a special education student

Multicultural
Of or relating to more than one culture

Multiple intelligences
A theory of intelligence by Howard Gardner identifying different learning talents that each individual has in varying degrees.
Each student has some talent in each but has greater strengths in some of the eight intelligences.
Each intelligence represents different learning modalities. Gardner also notes that different cultures emphasize particular intelligences. He maintains that teaching should focus on the particular intelligences of each student.

N

National Board Certification
National voluntary teacher certification process based upon National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
National standards designed for the advancement of quality teaching and learning

Negative questions
Questions that when asked, put students on the spot by causing embarrassment or intimidation if required to answer
Example: "Who doesn't know____?"

Negative reinforcement
Removing something unpleasant in order to strengthen behavior
Relates to Skinner's operant conditioning utilizing rewards and/or punishments to increase or decrease behavior.

No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB, P.L. 107-110, passed 2001)
This law strengthens accountability, increases flexibility and local control of schools, expands parental options and emphasizes best practice teaching methods that research shows work.

Nonlinguistic representations
An imagery mode expressed as mental pictures or physical sensations, such as smell, taste, touch, kinesthetic association, and sound

Nonverbal communication
Communicating a message to the listener(s) through one's body language, facial expressions, eye contact or gestures
This type of communication carries much more meaning for the student than verbal communication.

Nonverbal reinforcement
Using a physical technique to reward a student in order to increase behavior
Example: patting a student on the back

Norm-referenced assessment
A standardized test whose results compare the student's score to a defined norm group Scores are always standardized or reported in percentile ranks.
Example: The SATs or ACTs are norm-referenced tests.

O

Ongoing assessment
Assessments that continue over a period of time or course of the semester or year
Example: Teachers may utilize anecdotal records to record student progress over

the entire year.

Oral reading
Verbal reading usually before a group of people

Organization
Tendency to systematize and combine processes into coherent general systems

P

P.L. 94-142: The Education of All Handicapped Children Act of 1975
This act ensures that all special needs children (ages 5 – 21 years) will be provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE). This act has been amended numerous times.

P.L. 99-457: Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments, passed in 1986
This law established an early intervention policy nationally for providing funding and benefits for families with special needs children. It mandated services for preschoolers with disabilities and early intervention services for infants and toddlers, birth to age 3.

P.L. 101-476: The Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1990, changed the name of EHA to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
It reauthorized and expanded previous funding and added traumatic brain injury and autism to educational handicapping conditions.
See Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

P.L. 105-17: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997
This amendment to IDEA was passed to strengthen educational opportunities for students with disabilities.

Paradigm
An example or model

Paraprofessional
A trained but non-certified individual who works with students and is under the supervision of a certified teacher or administrator

Parochial Schools
Private schools usually supported by a church

Pedagogy
The art or science of teaching; education; instructional methods

Perennialism
A philosophy concerned with the thought and truths that can be found in classic works of literature

Phoneme
Letters represented by sound, but may be too small to be a word, example: umm

Phonics
A method of teaching reading in which children learn to match speech sounds with alphabetic letters

Pluralism
The idea that society can coexist with and reflect diverse populations

Portfolio
A collection of one's work over a period of time
Student portfolios contain a progression of work accomplished by the student over time in a variety of media demonstrating progress in, or mastery of, a concept or skill. Often, students have a say in what goes into their portfolio and how it will be creatively assembled. Some teachers require students to keep a journal of reflection on each selected piece in their portfolio. Portfolios can be used as an authentic assessment tool. Teacher portfolios are a reflection of his or her teaching experiences over time, including materials documenting professional development, awards received, pictures of students during lessons, etc. Some potential employers require teachers to have portfolios before being considered for a teaching position.

Positive reinforcement
Providing a reinforcement for a particular behavior so the behavior will continue or become more frequent

Post-teaching
Teaching strategy of reinforcement of subject matter and skills used to help insure retention of reading assignment

Pre-teaching
Teaching strategy of building scaffolding of prior knowledge needed to comprehend subject matter, and instruction of skills needed in reading assignment

Predictive validity
Relates to assessment and how well the assessment will be able to predict future performance

Also referred to as predictive bias (think of
ACT or SAT tests which are used to predict higher education success)

Principles of learning
An accepted rule of action, or conduct that leads to effective learning

Prior knowledge
What the students already know; the skills students have and will use to add to learning; their learning foundation
Students learn new information by connecting it to something they already know or have experienced.

Professional Development
Ongoing acquisition of competence in specialized knowledge and skills to remain current in one's chosen field
Teachers have a responsibility to continue their professional development throughout their career. Continued professional development includes attending lectures or in-service training sessions, presenting at conferences, being a member of a professional organization, and/or reading professional journals, articles, and magazines related to one's profession.

Progressivism
An educational philosophy stressing the individual needs and capabilities of each student and the importance of hands-on learning

Pull out programs
Students with special needs spend time in a regular education classroom, but are removed and taken to a separate classroom in order to receive instruction from a different teacher in a particular subject matter

Punishment
Providing a negative consequence for a behavior so that the behavior will become less likely in the future

R

Raw score
The number of items answered correctly

Readiness
When a student is prepared by previous learning or ability to learn an idea or skill
For example, a student who has not learned basic math does not have the readiness for algebra. A student who has not learned to add is not ready to subtract.

Referral
To direct a student to a higher authority such as the principal; a form used to recommend special education students for needed services

Reflection
A deep analysis of something. Students are often asked to keep a journal of reflections which usually includes some sort of prompt from the teacher. As a part of being professional, teachers reflect regularly on their performance in the classroom, a particular lesson or aspects of their profession.

Reinforcement
Recognizing the accomplishment of a performance standard

Reliability
A test characteristic that measures dependability
A test that is reliable will be scored the same or nearly the same by students on more than one occasion. Internal consistency refers to consistency from item to item; test-retest is an estimate of consistency from one time to the next time taken; an alternative form estimates how close two versions of the same test measure the same thing.

Remediation
Help provided to students outside of the whole group instruction to help them understand the material being taught

Research-based strategies
Educational strategies based upon extensive scientific research

Reteach
Providing information in a completely different way using different methods to help students better understand and comprehend a concept that was initially poorly understood

Rubric
A method of objective grading in which certain rules are set and must be met to receive a specific grade

S

Scaffolding
Temporary framework used to support workman during erection or repair of a building; in education, support framework of a skill or person until framework is no

longer needed
Techniques to help the student move toward independently exercising new learning.
This might include hints or providing leading questions. For example, a teacher asks a student "Who is America named for?," and the student is confused. A scaffold would be the teacher hinting that he was from Italy.

Scaled scores
Statistically determined scores used to derive total scores

Scanning
Briefly reading over or looking into material for a particular word or purpose

Schema
A structure in the brain that stores knowledge or the existing knowledge structure of concepts; in education, the method of applying previous knowledge and experiences to current situations. Sometimes called"cognitive structure"
Schemata or schemas are the plural forms of this word.
A schema is similar in meaning to a concept or idea, which includes characteristics of a category. For example, a person has a schema or concept of "dog."

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
This federal anti-discrimination law protects individuals with disabilities and their rights in any program or activity that received federal funds

Self-assessment
Self-assessments most frequently used are portfolios, student interviews and conferencing

Self-efficacy
The beliefs one has about his own success; self-worth; the value one sees in oneself and the feeling of having some control over one's destiny
Example: Believing you can make a difference in a child's life.

Sequencing
Organizing instruction

Sight words
A method of learning to read words by viewing them as a whole and not focusing on internal letters, sounds, or spelling rules

Silent reading
Soundless reading to oneself

Situated learning theory
A theory that suggests that learning is unintentional and situated within authentic activity, context, and culture

Skimming
Briefly reading a passage or work for the main idea, not details

Social reconstruction
A philosophy that believes schools should be active agents in social change.

Socioeconomic Status (SES)
The relationship of one's financial status to their education, home and employment

Special education
Providing instruction for students whose needs cannot be met in a regular education classroom
See the various P.L.s

Spiral curriculum
Presenting parts of a discipline (subject) over a number of grades adding additional complexity at each grade level; The basis for the organization of many state curricula

Sponge activity
A planned independent or small group activity the teacher has ready for the students to begin as soon as they enter the classroom. The objective of a sponge activity is to get the students involved and focused until formal instruction begins. Also called an anticipatory set or focus

Staff Development
Providing training for teachers to keep abreast of current trends and ideas and improve professionalism
School districts often offer staff development workshops throughout the year. Teachers are required to obtain a specific number of hours of training in order to keep their certification current. Also called in-service-training

Standard deviation
The distance of a particular score from the mean (arithmetic average)

Standardized test
A test given with a set of specific instructions and time limits to ensure similar testing conditions for all
Standardized tests are commercially produced and must be reliable and valid. Schools are held accountable and rated by the number of their students who pass a

standardized test. Federal funding is tied to student assessment; students in particular grades must be tested annually in order for the state to received funds. Currently, 45 states require future teachers to pass a state prescribed standardized test to become certified.

Standards–based educational system
A system which emphasizes learning goals, academic standards, or performance targets and outcomes (usually on state-level, criterion-referenced tests)

Strategies
Techniques used by students to learn a concept in a manner conducive to their learning. The teacher must teach the students strategies prior to their implementation.

Structured response
Students select answers from choices provided

Structures
Teacher-directed techniques generally involving classroom set-up

Summative assessment
Formal or informal evaluation occurring at the end of the unit of study
The purpose of summative assessment is to evaluate the teacher's success in terms of instructional methodologies and the student's progress in terms of mastered objectives

Sustained Silent Reading (SSR)
A set-aside classroom time in which all students and the teacher are engaged in the reading only

Synthesis
(Bloom's Taxonomy) Higher level thinking that requires putting pieces together to form a whole

T

Tactile
Learning assimilation of needing to feel with hands or other parts of the body tangible, physical objects to comprehend them; Tactile learners learn by using their sense of touch and movement; learning by doing; hands-on
See kinesthetic

Taxonomy

The standards used for hierarchical categorizing or classification

Teacher-centered model
Teaching model by which the teacher is the focus of the classroom

Teacher-made test
An assessment produced by the classroom teacher
Teacher-made tests must be reliable and valid. They must relate to the instructional objectives and given instruction. Teacher-made tests require a great deal of planning, allowing students to check their own learning progress, and are laborious to prepare.

Teaching Style
The way a teacher chooses to teach based on previous experiences, educational beliefs and his or her philosophy. Teaching style includes the way in which a teacher communicates, his or her mannerisms, his or her selection of a particular teaching method or instructional strategy, and student expectations. Teaching styles include traditional style, teacher centered, student centered and/or content centered, with many variations of each of these.

Team Teaching
Two or more teachers teaching together
They share two groups of students.
Example: One teacher teaches math and science while the other teacher teaches language arts and social studies.

Test-retest reliability
Estimates how consistently a test measures from one time to the next time taken
See reliability

Text specific
Pre-reading knowledge relating to being able to comprehend and use type of current text in use, such as table of contents, index, and glossary

Theories of learning
Proposed explanations of how learning occurs

Title I
Federal public education funding for schools serving low-income families and low achieving students as mandated by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965

Title IX
Part of the 1972 federal Education Amendment Act that prohibits gender

discrimination for any program receiving federal funds

Topic specific
Pre-reading knowledge relating to knowing basic facts of subject to be read at current level

Tracking
Homogeneous grouping of students based on some specific type of measure or evaluation of their abilities

Tutorials
Small group assistance of skills not mastered in larger group settings: technology related tutorials are computer based and allow skill practice through various repetitions and then mastery is checked by software

V

Validity measure
The extent or degree to which an assessment tool measures what it is supposed to measure

Visual
Learning assimilation of internalizing by viewing print, diagrams, or pictures using the eyes

W

Whole language approach
Approach to reading instruction with the premise that students will learn quicker and more thoroughly if reading of unabridged quality children's literature; speaking, and writing are taught simultaneously, without undue stress on vocabulary or skills

Z

Zero-tolerance policy
A school policy giving the same automatic punishment to anyone bringing drugs or a weapon of any kind onto a school campus, no matter the age of the child or the conditions surrounding of the incident

Zone of proximal development (ZPD)
The difference between what a student can do without assistance and what can be accomplished with assistance of a more learned person.

The latter is what the student will be able to do soon with more practice and guidance.