

Parent Dictionary

Term/Acronym	Definition
PBL	Project-Based Learning/Problem-Based Learning A method of instruction where students learn about a subject(s) through the experience of solving an open-ended problem.
TCRWP	Teacher's College Reading and Writing Project: the driving force behind language arts instruction
Balanced Literacy	Balanced Literacy The model for literacy instruction K-5 which includes Interactive Read Aloud, Shared Reading (when applicable), Guided Reading (when applicable), Reading Workshop, Word Study, Interactive Writing (when applicable), and Writing Workshop.
Interactive Read Aloud	Interactive Read Aloud A read aloud when the teacher stops and checks comprehension of text by modeling thinking, having students turn and talk, or having students stop and jot/ sketch.
Shared Reading	Shared Reading A choral reading experience done in grades K-2 when a text is read together and revisited to work on decoding, fluency, word work, and comprehension.
Guided Reading	Guided Reading A small group reading experience done mostly with texts Level K/20 and below. In this structure, students are grouped with other students reading at a similar level and a new book at their instructional level is introduced and read with teacher support.
Reading Workshop	Reading Workshop A method of instruction that follows a predictable structure: teacher teaches a 5-10 minute mini-lesson to the whole class, students independently read and work towards their goal in just-right books while teacher confers with individuals or small-groups, everyone gathers back the rug for the share session.
Strategy Group	Strategy Group A small group instruction model done in reading or writing workshop. In this structure, students are grouped with other students working on a similar goal. The teacher coaches students on applying the goal in their own reading and writing.
Conference	Conference A 1:1 structure in which a teacher can support a student with reading and writing.
Word Study	Word Study A component of balanced literacy that teaches students phonemic awareness, phonics, sight words, spelling, and vocabulary.
Interactive Writing	Interactive Writing A shared writing experience done in grades K-2 when a text is composed together. Teaching points include spelling, grammar, vocabulary, conventions, and content.

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Writing Workshop	Writing Workshop: A method of instruction that follows a predictable structure: teacher teaches a 5-10 minute mini-lesson to the whole class, students independently write while teacher confers with individuals or small-groups, everyone gathers back the rug for the share session.
Words Their Way Spelling Inventory/ Developmental Spelling Assessment	Words Their Way Spelling Inventory/ Developmental Spelling Assessment Used to determine which word study levels and lists would be most appropriate for their children.
Word Study Levels	Word Study Levels The stage in spelling development where a student is able to apply phonics information to spell words. These would include emergent, letter name, within word, syllable affixes, and derivational relations.
ALEKS	An online math tutorial used by students to practice and reinforce skills. Aleks is an adaptive program, which means it can assign material to a student based on the student's performance within the program.
DRA	Developmental Reading Assessment A reading assessment that gives teachers information regarding the reading level of their students. Based on these assessments, teachers are able to set specific goals for students to help them improve their reading.
Reading Levels	Reading Levels A qualitative way to assess the difficulty of texts looking at multiple characteristics including genre, text structure, content, theme, language, sentence complexity, vocabulary, decoding ability necessary to read, and picture support. Each reading level has a set of explicit teaching points and strategies associated with it. This helps teachers know what to teach a particular reader. Reading Levels can be stated in letters (A-Z) or numbers (corresponding to the DRA).
Independent Reading Level	Independent Reading Level The reading level at which a student can read with at least 96% accuracy, fluency, and comprehension.
Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI)	Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) A program by Fountas and Pinnell that is used in our K-5 instructional support program as a resource for reading intervention.
Foundations	Foundations A program by Wilson Language that is used in our K-1 classrooms to develop students' knowledge of letters and sounds.
MAP	Measures of Academic Progress A computerized assessment given to students in grades 3 – 8, 3 times a year to measure growth in language arts and mathematics
TC Running Records	Teacher's College A reading assessment that gives teachers information regarding the reading level of their students. Based on these assessments, teachers are able to set specific goals for students to help them improve their reading.

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I and RS	<p>Intervention and Referral Services</p> <p>A committee of school personnel (administrator, teachers, specialists) who meet with parents to identify areas where a student is struggling and identify specific goals or strategies to help the student.</p>
CST	<p>Child Study Team</p> <p>A group of professionals who provide consultative, evaluative and prescriptive services to teachers and parents in regard to students who are experiencing school-related difficulties. The members of the child study team, as determined by the New Jersey Department of Education, are a school psychologist, a learning disabilities teacher consultant, and a school social worker. Also, at times, the speech/language therapist may act as a member of the Child Study Team.</p>
SIP	<p>Student Intervention Plan</p> <p>A plan developed between teachers and parents for students in the Instructional Support program that identifies specific goals for a student.</p>
NJSLS	<p>New Jersey Student Learning Standards</p> <p>The standards describe what students should know and be able to do upon completion of a thirteen-year public school education. Each grade level has their own standards, and the standards build upon cumulative knowledge from kindergarten through high school.</p>
NGSS	<p>Next Generation Science Standards</p> <p>The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are K–12 science content standards. Standards set the expectations for what students should know and be able to do.</p>
GATE	<p>Gifted and Talented Education</p> <p>Specialized instruction for students who possess or demonstrate high levels of ability, in one or more content areas, when compared to their chronological peers and who require modification of their educational program if they are to achieve in accordance with their capabilities.</p>
IEP	<p>Individualized Education Plan</p> <p>An Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) is a plan or program developed to ensure that a child who has an identified disability receives the special education instruction and/or related services necessary for their academic progress.</p>
504 Plan	<p>A short-term plan developed to support the needs of students who require modifications to the classroom environment in order to make academic progress.</p>
PARCC	<p>Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers</p> <p>State assessments given annually in the spring in 3rd grade - high school that measure whether students are on track to be successful in college and/or in their chosen career</p>
PAR	<p>Predictive Assessment of Reading</p> <p>An assessment used to measure a child's current level of reading skills, and a prediction of future reading achievement. The PAR is used to help determine which skills will need intervention for a student to become a strong reader.</p>

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ICR	<p>In-Class Resource Programs taught with the regular classroom teacher and the special education teacher; the student has to meet the regular education curriculum requirements for the grade or subject being taught; there will be modification to the instructional strategies or testing procedures which should be listed in the student's IEP.</p>
RCR	<p>Resource Center Replacement The subject is taught by the special education teacher. The resource center instruction includes individual and small group instruction.</p>
IS	<p>Instructional Support: Math and Language Arts instruction in addition to the student's math and or Language Arts core class. Tier 1- All students receive differentiated instruction in their classroom based on their individual needs - small group instruction provided through the workshop models Tier 2- differentiated instruction within the general education classroom small group instruction provided through the workshop models in conjunction with targeted instruction on skills and concepts through the Instructional Support program (push in /pull out 4x a cycle) Tier 3- differentiated instruction within the general education classroom with small group instruction provided through the workshop models in conjunction with individualized intensive interventions through the Instructional Support program (push in/pull out 5x a cycle) - 1:1 to 1:3 teacher to student ratio</p>
InView	<p>A cognitive abilities aptitude test that measures skills and abilities that are important for academic success. Administered in grade 3 and grade 5 and used as one of the assessments to determine eligibility for the GATE program.</p>
ICE	<p>Interest Cluster Education- classes taught to middle school students who do not take band or chorus. The classes meet twice a week, once in the morning, and once in the afternoon, during a PE/Health time slot and an Encore time slot.</p>
BCMS Student Handbook	<p>Student handbook</p>
GoGuardian	<p>GoGuardian, a provider of Chromebook management and protection software for schools, has unveiled GoGuardian for Teachers, a classroom management tool designed for Chromebooks. The goal of GoGuardian for Teachers is to help keep students on-task and away from inappropriate content.</p>
ENRICHMENT DAYS	<p>Special classes take advantage of calendar dates that are not optimal for regular curriculum.</p> <p>Enrichment Day builds school community by bonding kids and staff with a similar interest, provides enrichment experiences for all students, and inspires everyone to try something new and think in a different way.</p>
NME	<p>Not meeting benchmark standards.</p>
PME	<p>Partially meeting benchmark standards</p>
ME	<p>Meeting benchmark standards</p>
OR/OER	<p>Open Response/Open-Ended Response Open-ended refers to a question or problem which has more than one correct answer and more than one strategy to obtain this answer. Open-response</p>

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	refers to a question or problem that may only have one correct answer or one strategy to obtain the answer. In both open-ended and open-response mathematics problems, students are expected to explain or justify their answers and/or strategies.
RTI	Response to intervention For all students to target skills that need to be retaught, reinforced or enriched. Most grades have RTI built into their cycle week 2-3 days.
Odyssey	https://www.thelearningodyssey.com/ 2nd and 3rd grade software program that builds a learning path for students based on their needs and achievement a standard based assessment.
SMP	Standards of Mathematical Practice 1 Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. 2 Reason abstractly and quantitatively. 3 Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others. 4 Model with mathematics. 5 Use appropriate tools strategically. 6 Attend to precision. 7 Look for and make use of structure. 8 Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.
Math Workshop	Math Workshop A method of instruction that follows a predictable structure: warm-up of recursive skill or a prerequisite skill, students solve a problem in a way that makes sense to them, teacher teaches a 10-15 minute mini-lesson to the whole class bridging what students know to new strategies or ideas, students rotate through various centers to reteach, reinforce or enrich understanding of the standard according to a quick informal assessment.