

Abbreviations often used

Following are some of the many abbreviations commonly used among educators, but perhaps unfamiliar to board members.

- AAA** (American Arbitration Association) Aids in resolving disputes outside the court system.
- AASA** (American Association of School Administrators) Provides a number of services for school administrators, including conducting studies and surveys on educational issues.
- AASPA** (American Association of School Personnel Administrators) Works to establish acceptable school personnel standards, techniques and practices.
- ACLU** (American Civil Liberties Union) Protects individual rights set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
- ACT** (American College Testing Program) Standardized test taken by high school students seeking admission to college.
- ADA** (Americans with Disabilities Act) Federal law protecting the rights of persons with handicapping conditions.
- ADM** (average daily membership) Numerical figure used to determine funding levels for school districts.
- AERA** (American Education Research Association) The major professional organization of educators involved in educational research.
- AFSA** (American Federation of School Administrators) Works to achieve the highest goals in education.
- AFSCME/AFL-CIO** (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) The largest public employee and health care workers' union in the country.
- AFT** (American Federation of Teachers) An integral part of the American labor movement and a member affiliate of the AFL-CIO.
- AGO** (Attorney General's Opinion) Interpretation of a legal question by the Ohio Attorney General (OAG), usually at the request of a local or state government official.
- AP** (Advanced Placement) Test taken by high school students to earn college credit.
- ASCA** (American School Counselors Association) Promotes the rights and welfare of children and improves professional standards in school counseling.
- AVA** (American Vocation Association) Promotes and improves vocational education in high school, postsecondary and adult education.
- ASBO** (Association of School Business Officials, International) Promotes improvement and advancement of school business officials, school board members and others interested in school business management.
- ASCD** (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) Supports educators as they develop, evaluate and improve curricula.
- BASA** (Buckeye Association of School Administrators) A professional association for Ohio's public school administrators.
- BCII** (Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation) Investigative arm of the Ohio Attorney General's office.
- BRF** (Bond Retirement Fund) School district fund dedicated to the payment of debt service charges.
- BWC** (Bureau of Worker's Compensation) State agency that administers worker injury claims.
- CBE** (competency-based education) State testing program to assess student achievement in grades one through eight.
- CCSSO** (Council of Chief State School Officers) A nationwide organization of the 57 public school officials who head departments of public education in every state.
- CGCS** (Council of the Great City Schools) Conducts studies of problems shared by urban schools.
- CIP** Continuous improvement plan
- COBRA** (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986) Federal law that allows employees to continue to receive health insurance after they leave a school district.
- DPIA** (Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid) State program that provides additional funds for schools for poor students.
- ECS** (Education Commission of the States) Collects information on laws and standards in education and about administrators, principals and teachers. Also researches state policy issues.
- ED** (U.S. Department of Education) Federal government agency.
- EEOC** (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) Federal agency formed in 1964 to end discrimination in hiring based on race, color, sex, religion or national origin.
- ELA** (Education Law Association) Works to improve education by promoting interest in and understanding of the legal framework of education, and the rights of students, parents, school boards and school employees.
- ERI** (early retirement incentives) Programs that provide monetary incentives to school district employees who retire early.
- ERS** (Educational Research Service) Compiles and analyzes data bearing on effective education decision making, and functions as an information clearinghouse both for day-to-day operations and for long-range planning.

ESC (Educational Service Center) New name given to Ohio county offices of education in 1995.

ESEA (Elementary & Secondary Education Act) Conducts studies of problems shared by urban schools.

ESL English as a second language

ETS (Educational Testing Service) Provides evaluative instruments, research, and services related to educational testing programs such as the PSAT, SAT, GRE and GMAT. Also conducts the National Assessment of Educational Programs (NAEP).

EVSD (exempted village school district) Name given to 49 Ohio school districts centered in villages.

FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) Federal law that addresses inspection and disclosure of student records.

FLSA (Fair Labor Standards Act) Federal law concerning wages and benefits for school district and other employees.

FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993) Federal law that authorizes unpaid leave for employees who are ill, become parents or who must care for sick relatives.

GED (General Education Development test) Test that allows students who did not graduate from high school to obtain an equivalent diploma.

GF (General Fund) School district fund receiving all moneys dedicated to the payment of current operating expenses.

GMAT (Graduate Management Admissions Test) Test taken by college students seeking admission to graduate school in business.

GRE (Graduate Record Examination) Test taken by college students interested in studying for advanced degrees in academic fields.

GRF (General Revenue Fund) Major fund of state government from which services are funded.

IDEIA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act) Federal law passed in 1975 to provide for the education of handicapped children.

IEL (Institute for Educational Leadership) Coordinates programs at national, state, and local levels that are designed to support and enhance the capabilities of educators and policymakers.

IEP (individualized education program) Plan devised by a school district for the education of a handicapped child.

JVSD (joint vocational school district) Name given to 49 school districts providing vocational training to 11th- and 12th- grade public school students, and adults.

LAF (OSBA Legal Assistance Fund) The LAF provides supportive assistance to boards of education in cases or controversies of statewide significance, primarily at the appellate level.

LEP (limited English proficient) Students who speak little or no English.

LPDC (local professional development committee) Local committee comprised of teachers and administrators which approves professional development plans of educators needed to obtain or retain licensure.

NABSE (National Alliance of Black School Educators) Promotes awareness, professional expertise and commitment among black educators.

NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) Authorized by Congress, NAEP determines the nation's progress in education.

NAESP (National Association of Elementary School Principals) Sponsors programs designed to teach principals about new curricula and technology, to clarify educational issues and trends, and to inform them of new educational research developments.

NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools) Assists independent elementary and secondary schools to strengthen their programs and more effectively serve their students and families.

NAPE (National Association of Partners in Education) Promotes the value of school volunteer and partnership services.

NASBE (National Association of State Boards of Education) Improves the policymaking skills and leadership abilities of state boards of education.

NASSP (National Association of Secondary School Principals) Conducts activities and events to enhance the effectiveness of middle and high school principals.

NBPTS (National Board for Professional Teaching Standards) Seeks to strengthen the profession of elementary and secondary teaching and thereby raise the quality of education in the U.S.

NCES (National Center for Education Statistics) An agency of the U.S. Department of Education. Collects and disseminates statistics and other data related to education in the U.S.

NCLB (No Child Left Behind Act) Federal education legislation, which became law in 2002.

NCSL (National Conference of State Legislators) Works to improve the quality and effectiveness of state legislators.

NEA (National Education Association) A national teachers union.

NGA (National Governors' Association) Serves as a vehicle through which governors influence the development and implementation of national policy and apply creative leadership to state problems.

NSBA (National School Boards Association) An organization for state school board associations and local school boards. It seeks to improve the leadership and policymaking abilities of board members.

NSPRA (National School Public Relations Association) Creates greater citizen understanding of the objectives, accomplishments and needs of the nation's schools.

- OAC** (Ohio Administrative Code) Publication containing rules and regulations of Ohio's executive agencies.
- OACBMRDD** (Ohio Association of County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities) Ensures the availability of programs, services, and supports that assist eligible individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.
- OAESA** (Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators) Promotes quality education and advances elementary school administration.
- OAG** (Ohio Attorney General) Elected official charged with enforcing and administering Ohio's laws.
- OAPE** (Ohio Association of Professional Educators) Group dedicated to classroom teaching in a nonunion environment.
- OAPSE** (Ohio Association of Public School Employees/AFSCME/ AFL-CIO) Represents nonteaching public school employees.
- OASBO** (Ohio Association of School Business Officials) Promotes professional growth and welfare of business officials in schools.
- OASCD** (Ohio Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) A statewide professional organization dedicated to improving instructional supervision and curriculum development.
- OASSA** (Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators) Informs school administrators of legislation and provides legal advice and liability insurance.
- OCESCA** (Ohio Council of Educational Service Center Agencies) Group including Ohio's educational service centers, formerly known as county boards of education.
- OCRC** (Ohio Civil Rights Commission) State agency charged with enforcing anti-discrimination laws in employment and other venues.
- OCSBA** (Ohio Council of School Board Attorneys) An organization for attorneys who represent or have represented Ohio boards of education.
- ODE** (Ohio Department of Education) Defines the results to be sought from education and provides leadership in transforming systems to assure continuous improvement in educational outcomes and delivery of services.
- OEA** (Ohio Education Association) Promotes the interests of teachers and the improvement of education in Ohio.
- OFT** (Ohio Federation of Teachers) Works to raise the standards of teaching by securing the conditions essential to the best professional service.
- OHSAA** (Ohio High School Athletic Association) Administers interscholastic sports programs.
- OHSPRA** (the Ohio chapter of the National School Public Relations Association) The state chapter of the national association, OHSPRA members work to improve school public relations.
- ORC** (Ohio Revised Code) Also referred to as RC.
- OSBA** (Ohio School Boards Association) Works to improve the management of schools and the quality of education.
- OSFC** (Ohio School Facilities Commission) Provides funding, management oversight and technical assistance in construction and renovation of school facilities
- OSHA** (Occupational Health and Safety Act) Name given to both state and federal laws that promote workplace safety.
- OVA** (Ohio Vocational Association) OVA promotes and protects vocational education and vocational educators.
- OWE** (occupational/work experience programs) School district programs that prepare vocational education students for entry into the workplace.
- PDK** (Phi Delta Kappa) A professional honorary society for men and women in education.
- PERS** (Public Employees Retirement System) Provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits to public employees.
- PSAT** (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) Test taken by high school students to prepare for taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).
- PTA** (Ohio Congress of Parents and Teachers) Works to promote the health, education and welfare of children and youth.
- RC** (Revised Code) Also known as the Ohio Revised Code.
- SAT** (Scholastic Aptitude Test) Test taken by high school students seeking admission to colleges or universities.
- SERB** (State Employment Relations Board) Administers and enforces Ohio's public employee collective bargaining law.
- SERS** (School Employees Retirement System) Provides and maintains, as much as is practicable and given all available resources, a feeling of financial security and a sense of well-being for all retirees, beneficiaries, and members.
- SDIT** (school district income tax) Tax imposed on income of residents by school districts after voter approval.
- SF-3** (School Foundation-3) Form provided by the ODE on which state aid to a school district is calculated.
- STRS** (State Teachers Retirement System) Works to enhance quality of life for teachers and their beneficiaries through retirement benefits.
- ULP** (unfair labor practice) Conduct by employers or employees defined as unfair under Ohio's collective bargaining law.
- USC** (United States Code) Multi-volume compilation of federal laws.