

WHAT'S THAT? A GUIDE TO ACRONYMS AROUND SCHOOL

ABC Readers	Asset Based Champions: a program under the Project Cornerstone umbrella that engages parent volunteers in reading a 3-year sequence of books focused on creating and sustaining a positive school climate.
Alliance	This term is not an acronym, but you will hear this term frequently. The Fairwood Explorer Alliance is a registered nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing together all members of the school community to create an enriching and engaging educational experience for all students and their families. The Fairwood Explorer Alliance has an elected board of parents and school employees who work together to organize the school teams, volunteering opportunities, and schoolwide events.
CAASPP	California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress: a state-based system of assessment that measures annual student progress in language arts and math beginning in 3 rd grade. Science is also assessed at intervals beginning in 5 th grade. Alternative assessments for students with cognitive disabilities and assessments in Spanish for newcomers are also part of the system.
CAST	California Science Test: The science portion of the CAASPP Testing for students in grade 5.
CCCCS	California Common Core State Standards: Each state has the ability to change up to 15% of the standards to align with local and state needs, thus, we work with the California version of the CCCS.
CCCS	Common Core State Standards: “Since 2010, a number of states across the nation have adopted the same standards for English and math. These standards are called the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Having the same standards helps all students get a good education, even if they change schools or move to a different state. Teachers, parents, and education experts designed the CCSS to prepare students for success in college and the workplace.”
CDE	California Department of Education: the state agency responsible for overseeing “the state's diverse public school system, which is responsible for the education of more than

In this document “parents” is inclusive of any adults who function in that role for students.
 Most definitions in quotes were taken from the California Dept. of Education website.
 Document Creation Credit: Anita Lee

WHAT'S THAT? A GUIDE TO ACRONYMS AROUND SCHOOL

	<p>six million children and young adults in more than 10,000 schools with 295,000 teachers. We are in charge of enforcing education law and regulations and continuing to reform and improve public school programs.” [from the CDE home page at http://www.cde.ca.gov/.]</p>
CELDT	<p>California English Language Development Test: an annual assessment given to EL’s to measure their progress toward learning English. Results place students into five performance bands – Beginning, Early Intermediate, Intermediate, Early Advanced, and Advanced. Students are expected to progress through one band per year on average. This test is being phased out and is being replaced by the ELPAC.</p>
CHAC	<p>Children’s Health Awareness Council: an outside agency currently located in Mountain View that provides counseling interns to all schools in Sunnyvale through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)</p>
DELAC	<p>District English Learner Advisory Committee: a district-level committee comprised of parent representatives from each school and designated District staff. This group provides input to the District on policies and procedures regarding ELD and then shares relevant information back to the school site.</p>
EL	<p>English Learner: a student whose primary language is other than English</p>
ELA or RLA	<p>English (or Reading) Language Arts: basically reading and writing</p>
ELAC	<p>English Learner Advisory Committee: In schools with more than 21 EL’s, there must be an ELAC, which is the parent group “responsible for advising the principal and staff on programs and services for English Learners and the School Site Council on the development of the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA).” ELAC also works to make parents aware of the need for consistent school attendance and to solicit input from parents regarding school needs.</p>
ELAT	<p>English Learner Action Team: a district-level committee comprised of instructional representatives from each school who provide input on district policies and procedures</p>

In this document “parents” is inclusive of any adults who function in that role for students. Most definitions in quotes were taken from the California Dept. of Education website.
 Document Creation Credit: Anita Lee

WHAT'S THAT? A GUIDE TO ACRONYMS AROUND SCHOOL

	regarding ELD and who share that information with the school site.
ELD	English Language Development: language instructions for students who have a primary language that is other than English; can occur within the context of other classroom instruction (integrated) or as stand-alone instruction that is targeted to the specific level of the students (designated)
ELP	English Language Proficiency: a measure that is assessed through the ELPAC. Students are assessed when they first enter a California school and annually thereafter until they achieve “proficiency” in the English language and are reclassified as Fluent English Proficient.
ELPAC	English Language Proficiency Assessments for California: “The ELPAC is aligned with the 2012 California English Language Development Standards. It will be comprised of two separate ELP assessments: one for the initial identification of students as English learners (ELs), and a second for the annual summative assessment to measure a student’s progress in learning English and to identify the student's level of ELP.” The transition will be completed by the 2018-2019 school year.
ESSA	Every Student Succeeds Act: “The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed by then-President Obama on December 10, 2015. This bipartisan measure reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation’s national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students. The new law builds on key areas of progress in recent years, made possible by the efforts of educators, communities, parents, and students across the country.”
FEP/IFEP/RFEP	Fluent English Proficient: a designation used when an English Learner achieves specified academic targets and is considered to have language skills comparable to those of a student whose primary language is English. Students can be considered IFEP (initially FEP) if they achieve those targets upon first entry into a California school or RFEP (reclassified FEP) if they achieve the targets after one or more years of instruction.

In this document “parents” is inclusive of any adults who function in that role for students.
 Most definitions in quotes were taken from the California Dept. of Education website.
 Document Creation Credit: Anita Lee

WHAT'S THAT? A GUIDE TO ACRONYMS AROUND SCHOOL

F&P	Fountas & Pinnell: a benchmark assessment system that is used to monitor student progress and performance in literacy skills and reading. The system is named after the authors, Irene Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell. At Fairwood Explorer we primarily use it to assess reading progress in Kindergarten and 1 st grades, although we also use it for students who are in need of intervention support.
GL or GLL	Grade Level (Leads): representatives or designated leaders from each grade level who serve on a leaderships committee within the school, Kindergarten – 5 th . Each grade level also has a representative on the District Grade Level Leadership Teams.
KLAS	Kids Learning After School: this is a subsidized program at 5 of the 8 elementary schools in Sunnyvale School District that is focused on improving student achievement through extended learning.
LCAP	Local Control Accountability Plan: “The LCAP is a three-year plan that describes the goals, actions, services, and expenditures to support positive student outcomes that address state and local priorities. The LCAP provides an opportunity for local educational agencies (LEAs) to share their stories of how, what, and why programs and services are selected to meet their local needs.”
LCFF	Local Control Funding Formula: “hallmark legislation that fundamentally changed how all local educational agencies (LEAs) in the state are funded, how they are measured for results, and the services and supports they receive to allow all students to succeed to their greatest potential.” This model began in 2013-2014.
LEA	Local Educational Agency: “a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a State, or for a combination of school districts or counties as are recognized in a State as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools. this term has multiple uses depending on whether the LEA is a school, district, or county office of

In this document “parents” is inclusive of any adults who function in that role for students. Most definitions in quotes were taken from the California Dept. of Education website.
Document Creation Credit: Anita Lee

WHAT'S THAT? A GUIDE TO ACRONYMS AROUND SCHOOL

	education.” For Fairwood Explorer, the Sunnyvale School District is the LEA.
LEP	Limited English Proficient: a term that has been sometimes used to refer to students who are learning English. The preferred term is now English Learner.
LRC	Learning Resource Center: a broader term for the school library.
LRT	Language Review Team: a group of staff members that meet at least twice per year to review the progress of English Learners and who recommend instructional modifications if needed to ensure adequate progress toward meeting English Language Proficiency targets.
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding: a document that outlines agreements between the school and/or district and other agencies in order to provide services to students in the Sunnyvale School District. All district MOU’s must be approved by the Board of Education.
NGSS	Next Generation Science Standards: adopted by the State of CA in September 2014, these standards are created around a set of performance expectations that require students to integrate content knowledge with application along a continuum from Kindergarten through 12 th grade. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Science and Engineering Practices, 2. Crosscutting Concepts, and 3. Disciplinary Core Ideas.
PBIS	Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports: This is the overarching program for our Falcon Pride, which works to build a positive behavior climate within our school. It sets forth a set of rules that are aligned across the school along with a defined, tiered system of responses when rules are broken.
PD	Professional Development: learning activities designed to increase the instructional knowledge and skills of all staff members. PD can be site-based, district-wide, or outside.

WHAT'S THAT? A GUIDE TO ACRONYMS AROUND SCHOOL

PowerSchool	Okay, this is not an acronym, but here's an explanation. PowerSchool is the Student Information System our district currently uses to house and track a wide variety of information about our students. Separate functions within PowerSchool enable attendance monitoring, grade entry, report card generation, message distribution, etc.
RBL	Recess Before Lunch – a structure in which students play before they eat their lunches, rather than afterwards.
RTI	Response to Intervention (or sometimes, Response to Instruction): RTI is the beginning level of interventions designed to support students who are struggling to meet academic proficiency or behavioral goals. The RTI process begins in the classroom between teacher and parents.
SBA	Smarter Balanced Assessment: The Smarter Balanced Assessment is the English/Language Arts and Mathematics portion of the CAASPP assessments. You may occasionally hear the term SBAC incorrectly used for SBA. SBAC refers to the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, the group who developed the SBA.
SBG	Standards Based Grading - The practice of grading students based on qualitative progress toward specific learning standards.
SDD	Staff Development Day: a full day that is designated for professional development training for certificated – and sometimes, classified – staff members. There are currently three days per year set aside for these purposes.
SEL	Social-emotional learning: “the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.” [from CASEL, at http://www.casel.org/what-is-sel/ .]
SITE	One of the three locally-controlled buckets for funding Fairwood Explorer. Sometimes referred to as “Discretionary.”

WHAT'S THAT? A GUIDE TO ACRONYMS AROUND SCHOOL

	These funds have the fewest restrictions of the ones available to us through the District.
SLIP	School and Library Improvement Program: One of the three locally-controlled buckets for funding Fairwood Explorer. Funds come from the State of California and are funneled through the District on a per student basis. There are restrictions on how this money can be allocated.
SPSA	Single Plan for School Achievement: “A plan of action to improve student academic performance by coordinating all educational services and resources.”
SSC	School Site Council: the group that is responsible at the local school level for creation and monitoring of the annual School Plan. SSC’s must be composed of parents, teachers and other school staff members. They are governed by bylaws that align with the requirements posted by the California Department of Education.
SSD	Staff Development Day: A day in which teachers receive professional development to support their professional growth. Students do not attend school on these days.
SST	Student Study Team or Student Success Team: a team of educators who work with parents to support learning for students facing challenges in the school environment. SST meetings are called when in-class interventions are not enabling students to succeed in desired ways or when parents request a closer look at their student’s progress and needs.
ST Math	Spatial-Temporal Math: a computer program that builds conceptual understanding of math skills on a grade-level basis. The program uses only pictures, no words, and requires students to move an animated penguin known as JiJi through various sequences of tasks. At Fairwood Explorer this may be done in class, in the computer lab, or at home.
STAR Reading	STAR “used to mean Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading. This meaning is no longer maintained, as the company has created STAR assessments for skills in domains other than reading.” [Wikipedia]

WHAT'S THAT? A GUIDE TO ACRONYMS AROUND SCHOOL

	At Fairwood Explorer and in Sunnyvale School District we use STAR Reading as a measure of student progress at each trimester in 1 st – 5 th grade.
TIP	Take It Personally: a parenting class under the umbrella of Project Cornerstone. Fairwood Explorer has this 6-week training session in the past.
Title I	Title 1 is a section of the ESEA (or ESSA) that “provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.” [Wikipedia] Fairwood Explorer does not receive Title I funds.
Title III	Title 3 is also a section of the ESSA, which provides funding that supports supplemental language instruction and academic support for students who are English Learners. Fairwood Explorer does not meet the criteria to receive Title III funds.
TLD	Teacher Learning Day: these professional learning opportunities provide time for teachers to collaborate around topics that are important for the work of site-based teams. Students are released early from school on these days, usually the second Tuesday of each month.
TOSA	Teacher on Special Assignment: This designation can refer to teachers who are working outside a classroom-based instructional role, but are still classified as teachers. Some TOSA's serve as site-based coaches or as district-level coaches.