



Secaucus School District Educational Terminology

1:1: One laptop or device for each student in a class or school.

21st Century Skills: A blanket term for skills of the future. “The term ‘21st-century skills’ is generally used to refer to certain core competencies such as collaboration, digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving that advocates believe schools need to teach to help students thrive in today’s world,” according to ‘[The Partnership for 21st Century Learning.](#)’

504 Plan: A plan for services, accommodations, and access for a student with a disability. A 504 plan is different from an IEP, which qualifies a student for special education services.

Assessments

- **Formative:** Evaluates student learning at the beginning or during a unit. Provides information for the teacher and learner about what needs to be covered/adjusted.
- **Summative:** Evaluates student learning at the end of a unit.

Co-Teaching/Collaborative Teaching/Team Teaching: When teams work together either in content teams or as co-teachers in the same classroom.

ELL: English Language Learner.

ESL/ESOL: English as a Second Language/English for Speakers of Other Languages. ESOL instructional strategies can be utilized to effectively teach this student group.

Growth Mindset: Dr. Carol Dweck invented the terms “fixed mindset” and “growth mindset” to explain the beliefs people have about their ability to learn and grow. Students with a growth mindset believe that they can improve through hard work, thrive on challenge, and see failure as an opportunity to do better.

IEP: Individualized Education Plan — a personalized document that is developed for an individual student who needs access to special education services.

IT: Instructional Technology. Technology is often used to address different issues and needs in education.

LMS: Learning Management System — a software used by schools to track grades, deliver curriculum, offer or evaluate courses, etc.

Makerspaces: Makerspaces encourage students to try, fail, and try again—just as the world’s most amazing innovators do. Makerspaces range from elaborate fabrication shops to small carts full of craft supplies.

NAEP: The National Assessment of Educational Progress is an assessment measuring American students’ progress in different subjects.

NCLB: The No Child Left Behind Act passed in 2001 and was signed by President George W. Bush in 2002. It bolstered the federal government’s role in ensuring that schools are demonstrating academic progress. It demanded that schools boost performance for underrepresented groups like ELLs, special education students, and minorities, and states/schools could lose their Title 1 funding if they did not participate.

NGSS: Next Generation Science Standards, that are now called the New Jersey Student Learning Standards - Science.

One Session Day/Early Dismissal - This is a four hour Instructional day. Each school’s schedule varies. Please refer to our website at www.sboe.org for school and bus schedules.

PARCC: Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers is a group of states and other groups that utilize a set of K-12 standards and New Jersey Student Learning Standards-aligned standardized exams (owned by Pearson) in Math and English.

Rapid Dismissal - A dismissal at regular dismissal time that involves the quick and orderly evacuation of the school buildings, in addition to cancellation of all afterschool activities. This usually occurs in response to an emergency situation or inclement weather. Bus runs will occur as scheduled.

Standards-Based Grading: A grading system where a subject is broken down into smaller goals and learning is assessed through each smaller target standard. Grades K - 5 in the Secaucus School District participate in Standards-Based Grading.

STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.

Title 1: Federal funding provided to schools with high percentages of low-income students to help learners meet educational standards.

