

## Glossary of Terms Frequently Used by Educators

21 <sup>st</sup> Century Skills	The set of skills a student must learn in order to compete and thrive in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century. Definitions vary, but many agree that included in these skills are: Communication, Creativity, Digital Citizenship, Research, Critical Thinking
Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)	A written agreement all parties on a community computer network promise to adhere to for the common good. Defines the intended uses of the network including unacceptable uses and the consequences for non-compliance. All CPA students and teachers must sign an AUP each year.
Achievement vs. Aptitude	Aptitude tests determine basic levels of cognitive competence (as in an IQ test) whereas achievement tests determine ability in specific academic areas.
Age-equivalent	A standardized test score that compares a student's performance with that of others of similar chronological age.
Atlas Mapping	Web-based program used at CPA and thousands of other schools internationally by teachers to map out their units of instruction. CPA's Atlas maps include the following categories: Standards Addressed, Concepts Taught, Student Outcomes, Assessments, Learning Activities, Materials Used, and Technology
Collaborative Culture	A basic tenant of the professional learning community emphasizing the importance of collaboration on every level of planning and decision making regarding student learning
Collective Inquiry	A practice among teachers in a professional learning community in which together they research, study and discuss best teaching practices as well as look honestly at the current realities in place that must be considered
Common Assessment	An assessment given to several different groups or classes of students taking the same course or being taught the same material. Results are compared and discussed so that decisions can be made to improve student learning
Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP)	A written plan used by a school or organization to help keep it accountable to its goals – CPA's CIP includes Goals, Strategies, Action Steps, Responsible Individual, Implementation Date, and Documentation
Criterion-referenced	A standardized test score that measures how well a student has learned a specific body of knowledge and skills
Differentiated Instruction	Differentiated Instruction makes it possible to maximize learning for ALL students. It is a professional and responsive mind-set where the teacher is proactively planning for the needs of diverse learners.
Digital Citizenship	Digital citizenship can be defined as the norms of appropriate, responsible behavior with regard to technology use.
Essential Questions	Questions that are not answerable with finality in a brief sentence... Their aim is to stimulate thought, to provoke inquiry, and to spark more questions — including thoughtful student questions — not just pat answers
Formative Assessment	Ongoing assessments used to determine levels of student learning and to assist teachers in making decisions about their teaching
Grade-equivalent	A standardized test score that compares a student's performance with skills commonly taught at a particular grade level

Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum	A commitment to be sure that the education offered to students is the same across a grade level no matter which teacher they have (guaranteed) and that it is actually teaching what needs to be taught (viable).
Horizontal Alignment	Assures that all teachers of a common grade level address specific subject matter following a similar time line – also refers to skills learned across subject areas in the same grade or course
LiveScribe Pen	Technology device used to take notes – uses a little camera and special paper to record what you write and also has a built in microphone for recording audio. The recorded audio is synchronized to the writing and can be replayed and reviewed at any point in the lecture
Moodle	The web-based system some CPA teachers use to post information, handouts, homework, pencasts, or whatever they would like to hand out to students
Norm-referenced	A standardized test score that measures how well a student compares in performance to other students taking the same test
Percentile Rank	A test score that compares students' performance in a specific area to others taking the same test - indicates the percentage of people an student did better than.
Pre-requisite Skills	The skills students need in order to master more complex or abstract skills.
Professional Learning Community	An ongoing process used to establish a school wide culture that has the following characteristics: shared mission, vision and values; collaborative teams focused on learning; collective inquiry; results/data oriented decision-making; and a commitment to continuous improvement
Promethean Board	Also called a "smart board" - it looks similar to a dry erase board but has electronic components, is interactive, and is connected to a computer interface
RTI	Response to Intervention – a term used at CPA to describe any academic intervention that is designed to provide early, systematic assistance to students who are having difficulty
Rubric	An assessment tool the teacher issues to communicate expectations of quality – used to support student self-reflection and self-assessment and to give descriptive feedback
Scaled Scores	A statistical interpretation of the raw score – sometimes on a scale of 1 to 10 – often not helpful to parents
Standardized Testing	Administered and scored in a consistent, or "standard", manner - designed in such a way that the questions, conditions for administering, scoring procedures, and interpretations are consistent
Standards	Benchmarks of quality and excellence specific to each course and grade level – standards are observable and measureable
Stanine	Short for standard nine. The name comes from the fact that stanine scores range from a low of 1 to a high of 9
Summative Assessment	Tests given at the end of a unit of instruction or at intervals within a unit – informs teacher an student of what was learned
Vertical Alignment	Order in which concepts within a subject area are taught that is logical and consistently leads from one grade level to the next