action research
Research, usually informal, designed to answer a specific question or for direct application to behavior or to a situation, conducted by teachers in their classrooms.

AP
Advanced Placement; College Level Course and Examination administered by The College Board

BICS
Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills

blog
Short for weblog. A type of Web site, usually maintained by an individual, with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Used as a verb, it refers to maintaining or adding content to a blog.

Bloom’s Taxonomy
A classification of levels of intellectual behavior important in learning, developed by psychologist Benjamin Bloom in 1956. Bloom identified six levels within the cognitive domain, including knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

BOCES
Board of Cooperative Educational Services

Brain Gym
A nonprofit organization committed to the principle that intentional movement is the door to optimal living and learning. Its mission is to support self-awareness and ease of living and learning through safe, simple, and effective movement. Brain Gym movements, exercises, or activities refer to the original 26 Brain Gym movements, sometimes abbreviated as the 26. These activities recall the movements naturally done during the first years of life when learning to coordinate the eyes, ears, hands, and whole body.

CALP
Cognitive academic language proficiency

CELA
Center on English Learning and Achievement, University at Albany, language research center www.albany.edu/cela

CHILDSPlay
Character, Health-Related Fitness, Intelligence, Lifestyle, Development and Skilled Play - elements of a P-12 physical education curriculum
cloze activity
A method of measuring a person’s reading comprehension by measuring the ability to restore omitted portions of an oral or written message by reading its remaining context.

critical thinking
The logical thought processes of the scientific method, including divergent and analytical thinking.

curriculum compacting
Instructional strategy, developed for gifted and talented students, that includes eliminating repetition of work that has already been mastered and streamlining of lessons while documenting student proficiency on instructional objectives and listing specifically what enrichment activities are offered in place of repetitive class work. The process of compacting includes three phases: defining goals and outcomes, identifying candidates for compacting, and providing acceleration and enrichment options.

decode
To analyze spoken or graphic symbols of a familiar language to ascertain their intended meaning.

DBQ
Document-based question

DE
Discrepant Event: An event that causes an unexpected contradiction with one’s prior knowledge

DS
Down syndrome

ELA
English language arts: NYS Learning Standards

ELL
English language learner

graphic organizers
Visual and graphic representations of information that show both units of information and the relationship between these units. Also known as concept maps, story maps, advance organizers, story webs, semantic maps, and cognitive organizers, they are often used to teach text structure, to aid comprehension, support writing organization and planning and to help students understand vocabulary.

HLL
Heritage language learner: Student who has basic oral skills in a language other than English and participates in LOTE instruction in that language.
inquiry
Instructional strategy based on seeking information by questioning rather than presenting.

life skills classroom
A structured learning environment that focuses on the skills of daily living.

LOTE
Languages other than English: NYS Learning Standards

MALP
Mutually adaptive learning paradigm

manipulative
An object designed so a student can learn some concept by manipulating it. The use of manipulatives provides a way for children to learn concepts in developmentally appropriate, hands-on ways. Examples include blocks, letter tiles, and shapes.

metacognition
Awareness and knowledge of one’s mental processes such that one can monitor, regulate and direct them to a desired end.

MST
Math, Science and Technology: NYS Learning Standards

multimodality
Learning or instruction that uses more than one sense.

NASPE
National Association for Sport and Physical Education

NCES
The National Center for Education Statistics: primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education.

NCTM
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

NSTA
National Science Teachers Association

PDA
Personal digital assistant (archaic: public display of affection)

PLC
Professional Learning Community

PSAT
Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test: administered by The College Board
**realia**
Objects from real life used in classroom instruction by educators to improve student understanding of other cultures and real-life situations. Often used by a teacher of a foreign language to strengthen students’ associations between words for everyday objects and the objects themselves.

**rubric**
A set of criteria and standards linked to learning objectives that is used to assess performance. In education, a scoring tool for evaluation of subjective assessments.

**SAT**
Scholastic Aptitude Test, administered by The College Board. A standardized exam used as admission test by many U.S. colleges and universities.

**schema**
An underlying organizational pattern or structure; conceptual framework.

**Sheltered Instruction** Instructional model for English language learners that teaches content through a developmental language approach.

**SIFE**
Students with Interrupted Formal Education

**SIOP**
Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol

**SLIFE**
Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education

**text (verb)**
To send text-based messages using phone or PDA.

**Twitter**
A free social networking and microblogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author’s profile page and delivered to subscribers, who are known as followers.

**Vertical Teaming**
Practice of establishing a team of different grade-level teachers in an academic area to communicate, cooperate and design curricular change to encourage high student achievement.

**Wikipedia**
Web-based, collaborative, multilingual encyclopedia project. The name is taken from wiki (a technology for creating collaborative Web sites, from the Hawaiian word meaning “quick”). Wikipedia’s 14 million articles have been written collaboratively by volunteers around the world, almost all of which can be edited by anyone with access to the site.