

EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY

OVERVIEW

What is Educational Advocacy?

Educational Advocacy is a partnership between a professional educational advocate and families whose goal is to assure that their child receives an appropriate education that allows them to achieve their highest potential. Advocates are highly knowledgeable and experienced in educational laws, procedures and interventions, along with what services the schools can provide. They work with and represent the student and family in ensuring they receive the necessary modifications and accommodations to help their child be successful.

An educational advocate can help by:

- Reviewing educational records to make informed, individualized recommendations on possible accommodations and modifications
- Developing goals and a strategic plan for both school and home to support the child's success
- Identify any problems interfering with the educational needs of the child
- Becoming a part of the educational team, attending school conferences
- Attending IEP or 504 Plan meetings to represent the student and parents
- Consulting and supporting parents throughout the IEP or 504 Plan process
- Ensuring the school is providing services and is held accountable as outlined by law
- Providing information to parents if the school and parents cannot come to an agreement

Work to ensure:

- Appropriate assessments are being used to determine levels and need
- Education plan is thorough and based on the needs of the student
- Child is benefitting from all available educational programs and activities
- Modifications, accommodations and aids are being utilized