

# Why Should You Hire an Advocate?

Special Education laws are very complex. Advocates should have specialized training in state and federal laws and can help you understand the information pertaining to your student's needs.

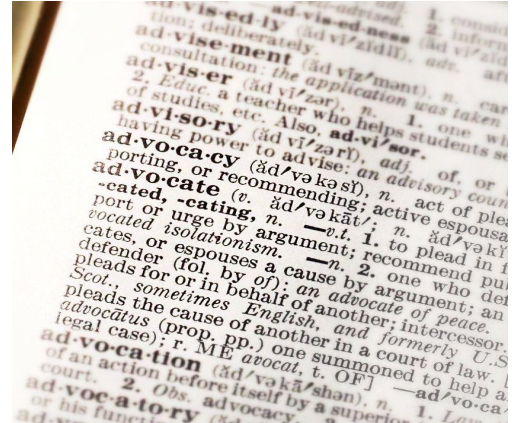
Experienced advocates typically have training in not only special education laws, but also in negotiation skills which are useful when families and schools cannot come to an agreement.

Parents/caregivers cannot always be objective because of the emotions they have for their student. Advocates are an objective third party.

The IEP process should be collaborative between all parties. Advocates can facilitate this collaboration and preserve relationships between families and schools.

The IEP process can be very overwhelming and families of children with disabilities have many things they have to deal with. Families cannot always keep up with it all. Advocates can help with strategies, correspondence, paperwork, etc.

Your student may have very specific issues or conditions that require an expert in that area to work with the team. Many advocates have specialized knowledge in different areas of disability.



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