

# ADVOCACY IN ACTION

How to Plan for better IEP  
Outcomes!

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BY  
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# Here's where you need to start

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Are you frustrated with advocacy taking up all your time? Most advice you'll receive is to put away your emotions. Easy right? Just learn enough so that you'll be able to be completely cool and business will be front and center when you meet with the school.

## Why this is wrong

Any hostage negotiator will tell you that people revert to fundamental psychological reactions when they are threatened, affronted and angry and in high-stakes negotiations.

There aren't any circumstances where you can be totally objective or, robotically move through your Agenda Points. Don't be embarrassed by being human!

## #1. Begin by working on your own self-control



Preparing Agendas and Questions are important tasks, but it all goes south when your emotions and pre-conceived notions about school personnel surface. You are still angry.

### How do I know to start here?

Because I have done it and turned around adversarial ARD Meetings. You can learn to do it too through modeling techniques for remaining calm while appealing to emotions.

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## Stop being Impressed with yet another accommodation offering!

Accommodations are the access piece of the IEP, and they may be essential in specialized instruction, but Special Education is about discussing how good skills are. Focusing on the end goal is what you need to do. Wheelchairs are great for access and appropriate as an accommodation for your child to navigate school, but what if she can learn to walk and hasn't? I can teach you to get out of the weeds.

## #2. Begin shaping up discussions

Discussions should follow the flow of most recent information. The newest data, assessment or information comes first. Historical data can be compared to it for proof of progress. The beginning of the IEP has to be the priority in any services discussion AKA the Present Levels. You will know how to prevent 'start at the back' IEP meetings.

## How does this work?

It sends a message to the IEP team that you won't miss a thing. You will build a collaborative relationship when the team understands you are part of the process not only there for conversation.



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## **Stop Filing Complaints when there isn't an overall strategy!**

A hasty state complaint decision can ruin a strategy for a Due Process Complaint. A finding for the school might derail asking for more. Don't 'file just to file.' Learn how different dispute options can work together, or apart, as pieces in a drive to get more services for your child.

I did this as a parent of High-Schoolers. Back then, I didn't know that 504 Hearings didn't have a truly Impartial Hearing Officer, and the Office for Civil Rights waited until the Hearing was over to step in and take action. Learn from mistakes that I've learned to avoid. Save your energy for effective strategies based on your child's particular issues.

## **#3. Begin organizing School Responses**

Many Advocates create Binders and systems for separating Documents. What you need is to organize by the agreements and refusals given to you by the school district.

### **How does this work?**

Learn about my system for organizing the information that matters for advocacy. Cut through the crazy amount of pages in your child's educational file and turn into a Roadmap for fixing what's wrong.

**This strategy will help you really make change for your child!**

**My 90 day Coaching Package is the why and the how in Special Education**

Kind regards,  
Virginia

# Want my Process?

Don't agonize over what you need to do in an IEP Meeting ever again. Learn how to get positive results.

**ATTEND A FREE TRAINING**

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