



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY TRAINING

August 23, 2017

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Learning Resource Center
(Central)**

**NJ Department of Education
Building 200**

**100 Riverview Plaza Drive
Trenton, New Jersey**

PLEASE READ: NOTICE REGARDING COURSE MATERIALS

Course materials will be provided to registrants at the beginning of the program.

Program Summary

This presentation will provide an overview of the special education process in New Jersey with a focus on select legal requirements relating to the identification, evaluation and provision of special education and related services for children with disabilities. The presentation will include a discussion of federal requirements set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) as well as State requirements as detailed in N.J.A.C. 6A:14. The presentation will also feature an analysis of recent United States Supreme Court cases concerning the IDEA and the education of students with disabilities. The presentation will also feature a detailed overview of New Jersey's special education dispute resolution system, with an emphasis on special education mediation, due process hearings and complaint investigations.

Who Should Attend?

This program is limited to individuals invited by the Department of Education.

Who Is the Faculty?

John Worthington, Esq. is the Director of the Office of Special Education Policy and Procedure in the New Jersey Department of Education. Federal law and regulations require the office to operate a system of general supervision that monitors the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 by local education agencies. The system is accountable for enforcing the Act's requirements and ensuring continuous improvement. To accomplish this mandate, the OSEPP oversees monitoring, dispute resolution, complaint investigations and other policies and programs that are integral to enforcing the Act's requirements. Prior to becoming Director of OSEPP, Mr. Worthington worked in several positions at the DOE, including Manager, Bureau of Policy and Planning and Coordinator of Dispute Resolution and Policy in the OSEPP and Director of State Board Appeals. He also worked for the New Jersey Attorney General's Office for ten years, primarily representing the Department of Education.

Lorelei Drew-Nevola, M.Ed., is the Director of the Office of Special Education Professional Development, Lorelei Drew-Nevola, M.ED., and is charged with managing the office that provides professional development opportunities for educational staff across the State, including technical assistance and coaching on-site at schools and districts. Additionally, this Office serves to improve programs for students with disabilities from Preschool through graduation. Previously, she served as Manager of NJOSEP - Program Development Bureau and as a Special Education Consultant for the State. Her professional career in education has extended over thirty years having served as an administrator, educator, project manager, and coach in New Jersey public schools. She is a strategic learning specialist having honed her skills in meeting the needs of unique learners as owner and director of her own learning centers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Kathleen Ehling, Esq., is the Manager of the Bureau of Governance and Fiscal Support, Office of Special Education Policy and Procedure within the New Jersey Department of Education. In this capacity, she oversees the implementation of administrative policy for the office, including development of regulations, model IEPs and the Parental Rights in Special Education booklet. In addition, Ms. Ehling oversees the dispute resolution system, the approval and monitoring of approved private schools for students with disabilities and clinics and agencies, the SEMI program, and the IDEA Part B grant process. Additional duties currently include coordinating submission of the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report and the State Systemic Improvement Plan to the United States Department of Education. Prior to assuming the role of Manager, Ms. Ehling worked as a special assistant to the Director of the Office of Special Education Programs, a complaint investigator and mediator with the New Jersey Office of Special Education Programs. Prior to joining the department, Ms. Ehling worked as a fifth grade teacher in the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District.

Kim Murray M.Ed., is the Manager of the Bureau of Program Review and Support, Office of Special Education Policy and Procedure within the New Jersey Department of Education. In this capacity, she oversees the monitoring of local education agencies and private schools for students with disabilities with regard to state and federal special education law with a focus on improving student achievement. In addition, Ms. Murray oversees the complaint investigation process and data collection and analysis. Additional duties include alternate assessment for students with significant intellectual disabilities and the use of accommodations and accessibility features on

statewide assessments. Prior to assuming the role of Manager, Ms. Murray worked as a monitor and complaint investigator for the Office of Special Education. Prior to joining the department, Ms. Murray worked as a special education teacher in the Northern Burlington County Regional School District.

Dominic Rota, Esq., is the Dispute Resolution Administrator for Bureau of Governance and Fiscal Support, Office of Special Education Policy and Procedure within the New Jersey Department of Education. In this capacity, he oversees the special education dispute resolution system, which includes reviewing requests for mediation and due process hearings; scheduling and conducting special education mediation sessions; transmitting cases to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). In addition, Mr. Rota monitors and analyzes relevant federal and state legislation, regulations and court cases concerning the education of students with disabilities. Prior to joining OSEPP, Mr. Rota was a Legal Specialist in the Department of Education's Office of Legal and External Affairs and was responsible for a variety of education law issues. Previously, Mr. Rota has served a Director of Legislative Affairs, Ethics Officer, Records Custodian, and Public Information Officer for multiple New Jersey Executive branch departments. Mr. Rota earned his Bachelor's Degree from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey and his law degree from the Rutgers School of Law Camden, where he was a Dean's Scholar and member of the Rutgers Civil Practice Clinic.

CLE Credit

NJ CLE Credit: This program had been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 5.9 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

NY CLE Credit: 5.5 Substantive Credits (pursuant to the approved jurisdiction policy).

PA CLE Credit: 4.5 Substantive Credits (\$7.50 mandatory registration fee required).