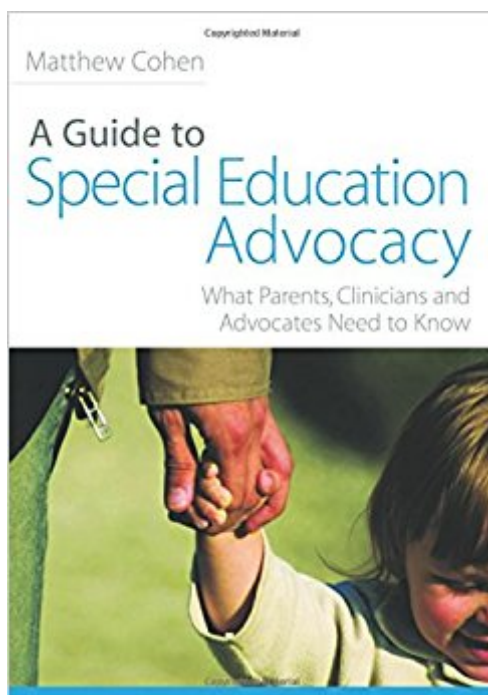


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# A Guide To Special Education Advocacy



## Synopsis

Disability law can be complex and intimidating, so how can concerned parents use it to ensure their child with a disability receives the appropriate education they are legally entitled to? A Guide to Special Education Advocacy gives strategies for advocating for better provision of special education in schools. Despite the many services and accommodations that have been made for students with disabilities, such as the use of Braille or providing specialized education in a regular or special classroom, many children with disabilities do not get the services they need and are not placed in appropriate programs or settings. Because of this, the perception of disability often remains unchanged. Matthew Cohen's insightful manual gives a practical vision of how a parent or a professional can become an advocate to achieve a more inclusive and rewarding education for the child with a disability. This book will provide parents, people with disabilities, professionals and clinicians thinking about special education advocacy with an overview of current disability law and how it works, identifying practical ways for building positive and effective relationships with schools.

## Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Jessica Kingsley Pub; 1 edition (February 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1843108933

ISBN-13: 978-1843108931

Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 0.6 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #362,062 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in [Books > Law > Family Law > Child Advocacy](#) #33 in [Books > Law > Specialties > Disability](#) #49 in [Books > Law > Specialties > Educational Law & Legislation](#)

## Customer Reviews

VERY helpful book. I don't often write reviews on books, but this book merits a review. I came across this book by chance on the new books shelf at my local library. It has detailed up-to-date information on the 2004 reauthorization of IDEA and the IDEA 2006 regulations. This book should be very helpful to any parent trying to advocate for their child. It should also be helpful to special education teachers and administrators because of the detailed information on federal regulations regarding IDEA and Section 504, with specific CFR citations. The book also contains a comparison of Section

504 plans versus IDEA 2004. It dispels the idea that Section 504 is only applicable to students with health issues, and explains when one is preferable to the other. "Each law has advantages for children with disabilities depending on the circumstances of the child, the school, and the particular issue. At the most general level, IDEA is more likely to be of use to children who require a greater intensity of specialized instructional services and/or related services, who have more complex needs, and/or when there is a greater need for specificity in planning for the child, protecting the child's procedural rights, or holding the school accountable regarding issues of implementation. By contrast, Section 504 is typically of greater utility if the child's needs are less complex, if the child has a disability that does not qualify him or her for special education, or when the child needs only accommodations, as opposed to special education" (p. 236).

After reading this and then meeting with Matt Cohen to speak about inclusive education in Illinois, I realized how valuable a resource this book and Mr. Cohen are to equality in education. This book can be used as a tool for parents, researchers, attorneys, legislators, and anyone else interested to help navigate the education system for children with disabilities. It gives the ups and downs and honest advice for giving each child the best education to help reach their highest potential.

As a pediatric OT, I work with children with disabilities birth - about 10. I have read many books on advocacy, and this is by far the best I have read. In fact, I purchased it for each of the families I see. It is written for providers and parents, with excellent strategies for meetings/letters/etc. The best advocacy book out there - and very updated!!!

A Guide to Special Education Advocacy: What Parents, Clinicians and Advocates Need to Know covers disability law and its complexities and tells parents how to ensure a child with a disability receives education they are legally entitled to. From understanding services and the evaluation and re-evaluation process to gain them to different kinds of environments, this is packed with specific and detailed observations key to any special education library catering to professionals.

This book is written in an easy reading format. It can be very useful to education practitioners and also parents of special education students. It explains everything very easily. When you finish reading the book you can have a better understanding about IDEA, and Rehabilitation Act section 504. This is a valuable book, I recommended 100%

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