

Additional Resources for Module Six

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Other Assets

Benefit to Having an Advocate

- Educational Support for Families: Someone to explain process and procedures
- Emotional Support for Families: Team member who knows the family and the child
- Balances Team Composition: Another team member who can sit with the family

The Utility of the Advocate During Conflict Between Families and Professionals:

- Advocates are described as a knowledgeable individual who can support the student (and family).
- Assists the IEP team to remain focused on the student (especially during conflict).
- Should not be mistaken for a lawyer, instead an advocate should represent the family as a “conduit,” or even a “buffer” for the IEP team to resolve any issues of disagreement.

Ally Advocate

- Someone who works with the entire IEP team while representing the student’s interests and needs.
- Described as “knowledgeable,” “communicative,” and “collaborative.”
- Perceived as making a positive impact on the entire IEP team through three primary roles:
 1. student advocate
 2. family support
 3. team player for conflict resolution

Adversary Advocate

- Further exacerbates conflict with families through “unprofessional” and “overly-emotional” behavior.
- Often enters meetings with an accusatory approach that tended to include “attacking people personally.”
- Adversary advocates display two key characteristics:
 1. argumentative
 2. emotionally charged



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