

Frequently Asked Questions

My child's school has not replied to my concerns regarding my child's reading and math difficulty. I don't want to make enemies and don't know where to turn.

The rules governing how and when schools must reply to you are very clearly set forth in state and federal code. A school's failure to provide Prior Written Notice is a serious violation that does not foster a healthy educational partnership between home and school. We work to ensure this line of communication is open and that "sunshine" is delivered to your child's school program.

My child's 504 plan doesn't seem to be working for her. What rights do I have?

While there are many differences between 504 plans and IEP's, your right to request expansion of services under IDEA is a possibility. We can work with you to set this in motion, or to "tighten up" the current plan to ensure its effectiveness.

My child is in high school. Where do I need to start for college planning for my son's LD and ADHD needs.

We work closely with parents and students to develop a *College Support Analysis*. This document assists parents in targeting prospective college/universities while rating them against a.) available supports and b.) your child's learning profile.

My child needs a different type of tutor: one that can assist with organization and skills that will assist in accessing information independently. Does this support exist?

We provide intensive, research-based interventions that target organization, planning, time-management, as well as tutoring that targets reading, math, and writing skills.

We need more assistance with our son, who attends a local college and needs direct support. What can I do to help him turn a corner in his college experience?

We work intensively with college-aged students to build and apply skills that will serve them in that setting and the work world.

About Wanzenberg and Associates



Dr. Matthew Wanzenberg benefits from 16 years of experience as an award-winning special education administrator, teacher, and researcher in special education law and policy.

Wanzenberg is proud of family members and friends with disabilities who have shaped and encouraged his professional and personal mission. He is honored to represent teachers,

administrators, support staff, and health care professionals with their own personal IEP matters.

As Chief Consultant for Wanzenberg and Associates, he employs a moderated approach to communication between schools and parents.

Wanzenberg fares from a long family line of professional educators: he represents the fourth generation of educators in his family. As a special education teacher, he served students throughout the entire continuum of service delivery including general education support, inclusion facilitator, assistive technology consultation, resource teacher, self-contained teacher, therapeutic day school liaison, and coordinator for residential placement services. He was awarded Teacher of the Year in 2007.

Testimonials

"Matt always seemed to know what we needed a step before we did. I will always appreciate his input and commitment to our child's needs." -T.S.

"We needed Matt the most when our anger and frustration clouded our decision making. He helped us to see different perspectives. He also worked tirelessly to ensure that the school understood our point of view." -J.N.

"As well intentioned as our school was, they always kept the 'rules of the IEP game' secret. It wasn't until we met Dr. Wanzenberg that we felt fully included in the team process... for the first time in ten years!" -C.T.

"Matt provides an 'insider's' perspective on the IEP process. He helped us focus on the big picture and our son's middle school experience was better for this partnership." -P.K.

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WANZENBERG

&

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Educational Consultants

"We advocate for all students' optimal level of independence in every phase of their educational career."

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How we can help:

- Help you to organize and present your special education concerns effectively
- Work with your school team to ensure a support plan is implemented correctly
- Help you and your child prepare for transition to work or training beyond public school
- Develop, propose, and monitor best practice interventions on your behalf
- Assist you in exploring college and post high school opportunities that are a strong match for your child's strengths and needs
- Update your IEP prior to graduation to provide for accommodations and supports beyond public school
- Ensure you get a fair shake during an initial case study evaluation for special education or 504 services
- Help your child successfully acquire ACT and College Board (SAT & AP) accommodations
- Assist you in exploring which private day school or residential placement is right for your child
- Update your child's IEP with accurate and meaningful education and/or vocational testing

PRACTICING FAMILY EMPOWERMENT...

The staff at Wanzenberg & Associates strive to:

- Protect your rights as a parent of a student with a disability
- Empower you to become a more active and effective IEP team member
- Illuminate the program behind an IEP, where conflict and miscommunication often occur
- Work pro-actively with schools to ensure what is agreed to in the IEP actually occurs

Who we are

The staff at Wanzenberg & Associates are professionals within the special education field who seek to guard and improve services for students of all exceptionalities.

What we believe

We believe that families of children with special needs typically have the passion and expertise needed to fully advocate for their IEP rights. Our professional experience suggests that parents often require more preparation and support to fully participate in the special education process.

The need for **external advocacy** arises when special education services are not

- accessible
- available
- appropriate, and/or
- effectively provided (Schloss, 1994).

The need for external advocacy also emerges when the concerns of family or child are suppressed or ignored.

Who we serve

Our clients include formally identified IEP and 504 students, students not yet identified, students with disabilities who have exited service. All share a common trait: services and outcomes should be improved to maximize educational benefit for your child. Our clients include children in Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs, elementary school, middle and high school age, and high school graduates who require coaching and monitoring beyond public school (college, agency, employment, etc.).

What we do

We evaluate your child's current program, gather your input and vision, and assist you in working with schools and specialists to effectively make positive adjustments.

We specialize in planning for transitions which occur from grade level to grade level, building to building, or high school to the adult world.

We offer tried and tested recommendations based on years of cumulative experience in the school setting in order to assist in each family's vision.