



Picture by Unknown. Taken from Google.com

What is a Special Education Advocate?

Our Special Education Advocates provide free information, referral and assistance to parents, teachers, and other professionals to ensure a child receives a free and appropriate public education.

Services include:

- Support for families before, during and after meetings with school personnel
- Assistance with understanding academic testing, psychological evaluations, and other documentation
- Information on Education Law
- Linkage to Dutchess County resources
- Workshops on the Committee on Special Education (CSE) process, transition from school to adult life, and more...



About TRI

Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc. (TRI) is part of a network of 41 consumer-controlled independent living centers in New York State. Our mission is to advocate for the civil rights of individuals with disabilities in Dutchess County and empower them to lead self-directed lives with independence and dignity.

Get Started with Services

Visit our website to complete a Parent Request Form:

www.taconicresources.org

TRI's Special Education Advocates:

Jennifer O'Neill

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Patricia Lucio-Penn- *habla español*

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Our funders:

Dutchess County APG, DCFS, NYSED, ACCES-VR, and NYS OPWDD Family Support Services



Special Education Advocacy



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Special education is no longer a place; special education means specially designed, individualized or group instruction, or special services or programs that meet the unique needs of students with disabilities.



What support is available?

Our Special Education Advocate can attend Committee on Special Education (CSE) meetings with the family to ensure the student's educational rights are protected. Our advocate also ensures the family has up-to-date information on education law and appropriate options for the student's education so they can make informed decisions.

Teachers, staff members and paraprofessionals can also receive training to understand the transition process.

TRI's Special Education Advocates are well respected and widely recognized as experts in special education advocacy. We are pleased to offer our quality services at no cost to families in need.

Is your child utilizing Self-Direction and willing to receive Special Education Advocacy services? We are happy to work with your child's broker regarding their Self-Direction budget.



Who can benefit from this service?

- Families with a student under the age of 22 who have a disability and need assistance in obtaining a free and appropriate public education for their child
- Anyone with questions or concerns regarding the legal rights of students with disabilities under federal and state laws
- Families and caregivers of students with disabilities who desire to learn about self-advocating for their child within the public school system

These services are provided to families *FREE* of charge!