

Individualized Advocacy Support

Families with children eligible for OMRDD services may receive individualized support services from an advocate. Completion of a Developmental Disabilities Profile will verify the existence of a developmental disability. Individual meetings will be provided when a family needs more than phone assistance to resolve a specific issue or for on-going educational support. Services include:

- Assistance with communicating your concerns and requests to the appropriate personnel.
- Planning and/or attendance at meetings with parents and school personnel.
- Assistance with preparing for and interpreting evaluations, accessing and maintaining of records/reports.
- Assistance with accessing assistive technology.
- Review of the student's records, services, and placement.

The following services are also provided for families receiving direct services.

Information and Referral:

- Information about education law, due process rights, CPSE/CSE committees, evaluations, record access, and record keeping.
- Clarification of the CPSE/CSE process and terms used by evaluators, school personnel, and the law.
- Links to existing individual, parent, and family support networks.
- Guidance with transition from early intervention, preschool, and kindergarten.
- Guidance with transition planning for post high school programs, jobs, and/or services.
- Referral to other resources and/or agencies, if requested, for on-going support.



Group Discussions and Parent Groups:

The Educational Advocate is available to speak at parent groups and advocacy meetings. She can share with your group a specialized Traveling Book Fair. This Book Fair has resources and information about developmental disabilities and advocacy issues, as well as other educational topics. You will discover literature appropriate for children, adolescents and teens, as well as adults.



Mission:

The Educational Advocacy Program will provide assistance to Putnam County families regarding school-related questions and educational issues for their children with developmental disabilities, birth through 21. The Educational Advocate will encourage parents to become effective advocates for their children when seeking appropriate educational services.

This program is provided free of charge via a Family Support Services grant from the New York Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD).

The PARC Educational Advocacy Program provides a part-time educational advocate to Putnam County families.



**Educational Advocacy
serves children,
Birth to 21**

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**OMRDD Family
Support Services**



EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

**Serving Families in
Putnam County**

