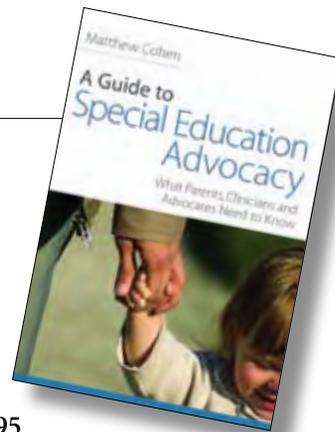


### How to Navigate the Special Ed Maze

Reviewed by Cynthia A. Smith, MS, JD

Matthew D. Cohen, *A Guide to Special Education Advocacy: What Parents, Clinicians and Advocates Need to Know*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, February 2009, Paper, 304 pages, \$24.95



*A Guide to Special Education Advocacy* provides an excellent overview of the current education laws impacting students with disabilities in the United States. The book focuses on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Written primarily for parents and advocates with a basic understanding of the rights of students with disabilities in education, the book contains 14 chapters, each addressing a different substantive topic.

An adjunct professor at Loyola University School of Law in Chicago, Matthew Cohen is an attorney in private practice who is well known for his work in special education law and disability advocacy. A former member of CHADD's board of directors and its president from 1999-2000, Cohen currently serves on CHADD's public policy committee.

Borrowing from Einstein, Cohen has based advocacy strate-

gies throughout the book on the formula  $E=MC^2$ : Empowerment (E) = Making (M) Change for Children ( $C^2$ ). Designed to "assist in utilizing the legal and practical information for effective action on behalf of children," these sections are quite useful for the parent or advocate who does not have the time to read an entire chapter but is looking for some quick technical assistance on how to address a particular issue. The book also provides a list of useful websites, education-related acronyms, and sample forms.

Overall, *A Guide to Special Education Advocacy* is well organized and easy to read. Cohen provides readers with the necessary resources to understand education law as well as essential tips on how to be an effective advocate. ●

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