

Ohio Special Education Legal Clinic 2022-2023 Schedule

The Special Education Legal Clinic is a public-private collaboration between three independent organizations, including Disability Rights Ohio (DRO), the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children With Disabilities (OCECD), and Albeit Weiker, LLP (AW). The Clinic is staffed by volunteer attorneys, advocates, law students and interns.

Held Every 3rd Monday of Each Month

- 12-1pm:** **Group Workshop, last 15 minutes open for attorney Q&A panel**
- 1pm-3pm:** **30-minute Individual Guidance Sessions with an attorney (scheduled in advance)**
- Register:** www.Lawyers4Students.com/legalclinic
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- September 19, 2022:** ***Reducing Barriers Through Advocacy: Top 10 Back to School Tips* by Tammie Sebastian at OCECD**
Attendees will learn back to school strategies that will enable them to become confident advocates for their child's special education needs. Suggestions to prepare before and after the IEP meeting will be explored.
- October 17, 2022:** ***Negotiation Tips and IEP Team Building* by Mark Weiker at AW**
In this workshop, parents learn several core strategies for long term success in negotiating services and supports on an IEP. Team building is also introduced, along with practical advice on raising concerns and addressing disagreements effectively and productively.
- November 21, 2022:** ***Ohio Special Needs Scholarships* by Disability Rights Ohio**
Ohio operates two scholarships that are available to students with IEPs. The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship and the Autism Scholarship Program give parents the choice to send their child to a special program not operated by the local school district. In this session, you will learn about eligibility, applying for a scholarship, and answers to frequently asked questions about Ohio's special needs scholarships.
- December 19, 2022:** ***Restraint and Seclusion Updates and Threat Assessments* by OCECD, DRO and AW**
Ohio has updated its rule on Restraint and Seclusion to include new professional development and training requirements for school staff and a process for parents to use to complain about violations of the rule. In this session, you will learn about the updates to the rule and how to use the complaint process to ensure your school is complying with the requirements of the rule. The new legal requirements for the use of student threat assessments will also be discussed.
- January 16, 2023:** ***Assistive Technology* by Disability Rights Ohio**
Students who learn and think differently can use tools to help them accomplish tasks that otherwise would be difficult or impossible. These tools are called assistive technology. Assistive technology can include mobility devices such as walkers and wheelchairs, hardware or software, and anything that can assist students with disabilities in accessing their education. In this session, you will learn about assistive technology and how your local school district must consider any needs your child has for assistive technology services and support.

- February 20, 2023:** ***Understanding FERPA and Student Privacy by AW***
In this practical workshop, attendees will learn the basics of FERPA and the privacy of student records, including student/parent rights and school responsibilities. Common misconceptions about what is confidential under the law will be explained, with applications to online learning, in-person observations, special education records athletics and more.
- March 20, 2023:** ***Extended School Year (ESY) by Disability Rights Ohio***
Some students with disabilities need extra schooling to receive a free appropriate public education. For these students, an extended school year might be necessary. Extended school year services are generally provided to students with IEPs during the summer to ensure they keep making educational progress. In this session, you will learn about extended school year eligibility and services, answers to frequently asked questions, and how to build a case for extended school year services for your child.
- April 17, 2023:** ***Understanding Autism by OCECD***
Participants will be informed about the current diagnostic criteria for the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Discussion will address early signs of Autism and life with Autism from one individual's journey along with strategies and possible methodologies for educating children identified on the Autistic Spectrum.
- May 15, 2023:** ***School Choice for Special Ed. Parents (Public, Private, Charter, Online, Homeschool) by AW***
This workshop will outline available education options for students in Ohio, including implications for special education students based on the school's options to comply with federal discrimination laws.
- June 19, 2023:** ***Procedural Rights and Dispute Resolution by AW***
This workshop focuses on parent procedural rights under IDEA and Section 504. Parents will learn about their right to informed consent and other procedural safeguards. This workshop also outlines how to request and use various free and powerful advocacy tools available through the Department of Education, including meeting facilitation, mediation, and the request for a due process hearing.
- July 17, 2023:** ***Procedural Safeguards: A Roadmap for FAPE by Tammie Sebastian at OCECD***
OCECD will introduce their collaborative work with the Ohio Department of Education's Office for Exceptional Children (OEC) on updating the new Procedural Safeguard Parent Notice. Presenters will provide an overview of where they began with the initial phase of the collaboration and how they arrived at the end result, with a brief overview of the changes to be discussed.