

Mission Statement

To ensure that families are a well represented part of the decision making process in their local school district as it pertains to the school district's obligation to provide a "Free Appropriate Public Education" for students with disabilities.

Anthony Farenga has over 10 years experience as both a public school special education administrator and teacher. His knowledge of special education law, assessments, learning and behavioral strategies is an invaluable resource for the community.

Ensuring that your child receives the needed services in your local school district can be a time consuming and frustrating process. Having an experienced advocate by your side to guide you and fight for your child's rights will give you the best chance of success in meeting that objective.

Protecting the Legal Rights of Children With Disabilities



Bay Area Special Education Advocacy

**Anthony M. Farenga
M.S. Ed.**

**Educational Consultant
and Advocate**

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Bay Area Advocacy

ANTHONY M. FARENGA

EDUCATION

- Master of Professional Studies in Human Resources Management from State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY
- Advanced Master of Education in School Administration and Supervision from City University of New York at Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY
- Master of Education in Secondary Education-Special Education from Dowling College, Oakdale, NY
- Bachelor of Arts in History from State University of New York at Albany, Albany, NY

CREDENTIALS

- New York State Permanent Certification in Special Education K-12 and School District Administration

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- Assistant Director of Special Education
- Chairperson of Special Education
- Special Education Teacher
- Employee Relations Specialist

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act



The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law ensuring services to children with disabilities throughout the nation. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services to more than 6.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities (retrieved from: [Http://idea.ed.gov](http://idea.ed.gov)).

An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a legal document which schools are required to develop for any student who meets the federal and state requirement for special education services. The IEP must be designed to provide the child with a "Free Appropriate Public Education". Before an IEP is written for a child with a disability, the school must first determine whether the child qualifies for special education services. To qualify, the child's disability must have a serious or adverse affect on his/her educational progress. To determine eligibility, the school must conduct a full evaluation of the child in all areas of suspected disability.

Legal Rights of Families

Students are best served when parents and educators work together. However, sometimes there are differences of opinion on how to best service and meet the needs of students. Challenging fiscal times may cause local school districts to rethink or reject needed services for your child. The due process system is designed to resolve disputes between educational agencies and parents of children with disabilities or children suspected of having a disability. A parent has the right to dispute any decision made by a school district. A mediation may be the first step to resolving a dispute in a confidential, nonadversarial atmosphere. However, when parties cannot come to consensus, a more formal, trial-like proceeding called an impartial hearing may occur. A hearing officer examines both sides' testimony and evidence then issues a written decision. Most school districts prefer to settle disputes prior to a hearing because such hearings are costly for school districts and cause adversarial feelings. Having an experienced advocate representing your child's interests may lead to faster and more amicable resolution.



Services Offered

- IEP Meeting Representation
- Mediation
- Transition Planning
- Educational Consultation
- Tutoring

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