

ISEA FAQs

How many spots are available?

We will accept 55 participants and then go to a waitlist.

Will you be offering an Advanced Track and am I able to attend ISEA if I've already attended ISEA?

We will not be offering an advanced track this year, and we do not allow past participants to enroll in ISEA for a second time. We hosted a successful reunion Institute in the winter of 2016. We may host a second reunion Institute in the future, but there are no concrete plans at this time.

How much is it and do you offer any discounts?

Registration is \$995 for attorneys (CLE credit is anticipated; last year we were awarded over 25 hours of CLEs, including an ethics hour, from the Virginia State Bar) and \$795 for advocates, educator/advocates, and non-attorneys (CEU credit is anticipated; last year we were awarded 2.9 hours/28 contact hours) and non-credit seeking law students. Law students seeking credit pay the summer school tuition rate. The registration fee includes the opening reception, all lunches and scheduled breaks, an evening reception, and over \$200.00 of materials, including books and multimedia training. Two or more advocates or attorneys from the same organization/office will receive a 10% discount on each registration. This discount does not apply to law students paying tuition for credit, the costs of which are mandated by the University.

Do you offer financial aid?

Unfortunately, the Institute for Special Education Advocacy does not offer scholarships or financial aid. Proceeds from this Institute will support the PELE Special Education Advocacy Clinic, which provides free legal services to children with disabilities and their families.

Some state Planning Councils or Developmental Disabilities Councils offer scholarships or funds for participation in conferences and short-term educational programs for advocates in the field of developmental disabilities. You may want to investigate funding available in your state. Go to the [National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities](http://www.nacdd.org/about-nacdd/councils-on-developmental-disabilities.aspx) (<http://www.nacdd.org/about-nacdd/councils-on-developmental-disabilities.aspx>). Click on the map for your state Council website to begin your search. (Example: [Oklahoma Consumer Involvement Fund](#) or the [Indiana Consumer Investment Fund](#).)

What are the topics?

Links for basic topics can be found on our home page:

<https://law.wm.edu/academics/programs/jd/electives/clinics/specialed/isea/index.php>

How long are the sessions each day?

Generally speaking, sessions run from 9 AM to 5:00 PM. We are planning on hosting optional evening sessions on one evening. Attendance is required in **ALL** day sessions. We will post the conference agenda once it is finalized.

Is there a schedule of sessions available?

Not as of now. We will post it once it is finalized.

Can I attend for part of the week?

We do not offer one-day/partial rates, as we feel attendees will receive the greatest benefit by attending the entire course and experiencing the opportunity of networking with the speakers and attendees from other areas of the country. Our alumni group stays actively involved with one another, and we believe this is partially because everyone is together for the entire week.

I'm not in the legal profession. Do I have to answer questions on the application regarding special education law and citations?

YES. ALL questions require an answer. We are looking for an understanding of all of the various roles of attorneys and advocates in special education advocacy, as well as the difference between attorneys, advocates and paralegals. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Do I have to answer questions directed at non-attorney advocates if I'm an attorney?

YES. ALL questions require an answer. We are looking for an understanding of all of the various roles of attorneys and advocates in special education advocacy, as well as the difference between attorneys, advocates and paralegals. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

I'm an attorney new to the field of advocacy. I can't get a letter of recommendation that speaks to my past experience as an advocate.

Have someone speak to your interest in developing your special education advocacy practice and other outstanding qualities.

Should my letters of recommendation come in with my application or separately?

Generally, they should be submitted together. We will accept letters of recommendations that are submitted separately; however, the committee will not review your application until it is complete.

Can I use a credit card?

Visa and Mastercard are accepted, but a 3.5% processing fee will be added to the cost of the course for those paying by credit card.

I was wondering whether the program is appropriate for non-law students. In addition, could you tell me whether a law background is necessary or required to take part in the training?

A law background is not necessary or required to take part in the training; however this is **not** an introductory course. It is intended for those with experience with special education advocacy already, who are seeking additional training, or law students or attorneys who do not have special education experience but do have a law background.

Are room and board and meals included?

Room and board are not included; however we are working to negotiate a reduced rate with our hotel of choice, Embassy Suites, and will update our page with a link for registration once that information is finalized. Lunch is provided daily and we will host a dinner on Wednesday evening at the Embassy Suites. Embassy Suites provides complimentary made to order breakfasts. You are responsible for all other meals.

Am I required to stay at the Embassy Suites?

You are not required to stay at the Embassy Suites; however we have found that attendees benefit greatly from the time spent networking with other attendees and speakers staying at the hotel. Should you choose not to stay at Embassy Suites, you are responsible for finding alternative lodging, as we are not familiar with rates of other hotels.