

Hidden Secrets of The Education Act

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Mahony Advocacy



AutismONTARIO
see the potential *voir le potentiel*

Mahony
ADVOCACY

Negotiating the Maze



Negotiating the Maze

During the first few years after my son's diagnosis, thinking about dealing with my son's school filled me with dread. I felt so frustrated and powerless...

No matter how hard I tried, I just couldn't seem to get my child's teacher to understand who my daughter was...

I have a complicated job and like to think of myself as "with it" but when I talk to my child's school, I am deluged with terms that they assume I get. Often, I don't....



The Advocacy Process

There are two major themes to the advocacy process:

- 1) Parents often feel a power differential in their interactions with school boards.
- 2) Parents and families feel they can't voice their concerns, affecting their ability to successfully advocate for their children.



Course Approach

- I have spent two years interviewing parents who have a proven track record of working both positively and successfully with staff and schools.
- Most of them share a combination of important knowledge and skills:
 - An understanding of special education regulations and rules
 - An understanding of special education law
 - A sense of *procedural advocacy*.
 - A realistic sense of what they want and how to work with staff to achieve their goals.

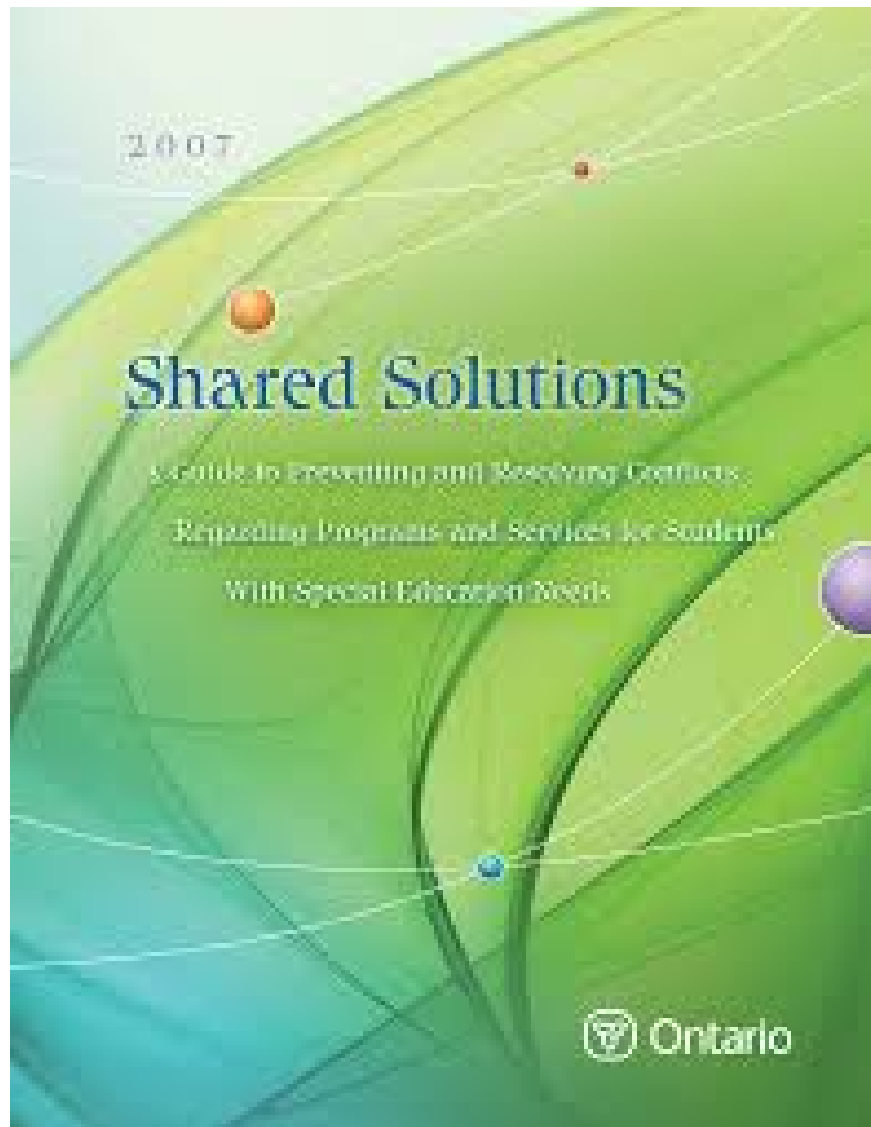


Course Approach

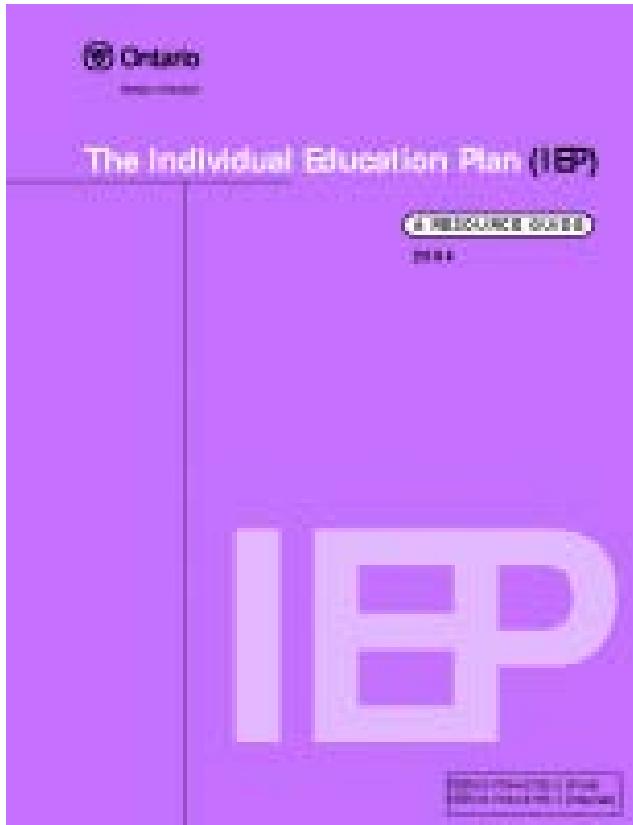
- I have spent two years interviewing parents who have a proven track record of working both positively and successfully with staff and schools.
- Most of them share a combination of important knowledge and skills:
 - **An understanding of Special Education regulations and rules.**
 - IEP
 - IPRC
 - Parents Guide.



There are rules...



Individual Education Plans



- In many ways the IEP is the centre piece of special education in the school.
- If it is properly written and used, the IEP provides the blueprint for student success.
- The IEP can serve as a paper chase; a document that has little or no connection to reality.
- The IEP is also an entry point for conversation about your child with staff.
- Try to focus on what is important; try to keep it real.



Individual Education Plans

- Imagine you are hiring a home improvement person to do some work in your house.
- Your home will be more enjoyable and make everyone in the house very happy through the use of advanced aromatic polycarbonic synthetic technologies.
- What's wrong with this contract?
- Expectations



Individual Placement and Review Committee

- An Individual Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) is a meeting of a committee to decide whether or not a child should be identified as having special needs or “exceptionalities” that fall under one of Ontario's Ministry of Education categories.



People for Education



Individual Education Plans

- **You have a right to insist that IEPs are..**

S – Specific

M – Measurable

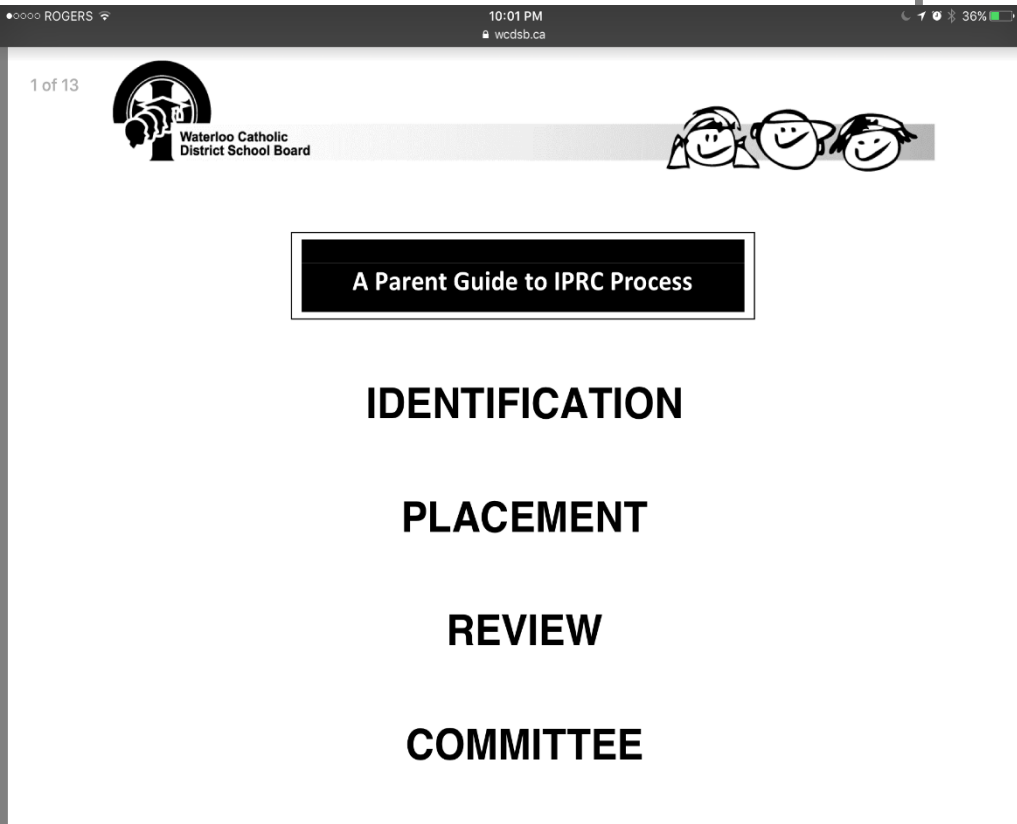
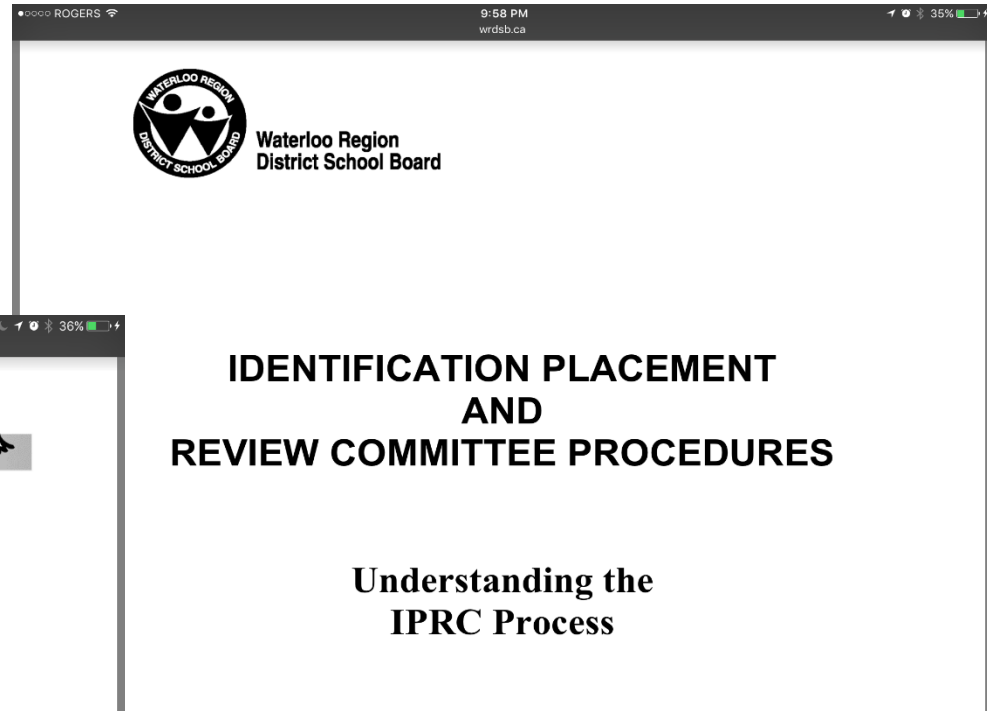
A – Attainable

R – Realistic

T – Time-limited



Parent's Guide to...



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