

A g u i d e t h r o u g h t h e p r o c e s s

*Special  
Education*

P r e - R e f e r r a l t o P l a c e m e n t

---

September 12 & 13, 2008

---

Best Western Courtyard Conference Center  
13500 South Willow Street  
Manchester, NH 03109

**COPE: Council for Outreach and Parent Education  
& Education-A-Must** proudly present their first  
collaborative Special Education Conference  
designed for parents and professionals.

COPE  
P.O. Box 642  
Derry, NH 03038

# Conference Presenters

**COPE: Council for Outreach and Parent Education** is the collaborated effort of Angela Kouroyen, NH Special Education Advocate and Madeline Demeule, Special Needs Parenting Coach. Angela and Madeline have been working together on various involved special education related projects for over 10 years. Both have personal and professional experiences with state agencies as well as school districts and professionals statewide.

**Melissa Farrall, Ph.D., M. Ed., S.A.I.F.**, presently works as an independent evaluator for her business, Mind Matters Inc. She presently teaches the structure of language and assessment in the Language and Literacy Program at Simmons College. She previously taught graduate level courses in language, reading, cognition at Rivier College. She was one of the founders of The Reading Foundation. Dr. Farrall co wrote the chapter on testing in *Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy*, 2nd edition. Thanks to Dr. Farrall, these chapters now include information about dozens of tests that are used to evaluate children.

Dr. Farrall received her doctorate from Brown University in 1981 in the area of Slavic Linguistics. She received her Master's Degree from Rivier College in Learning Disabilities in 1994, and her certification as a Specialist in the Assessment of Intellectual Functioning in 1999. She served on the Board of Directors for the New Hampshire Branch of the International Dyslexia Association for several years. Dr. Farrall lives in Merrimack, New Hampshire with her husband and two children, one of whom has a reading disability.

**Brice Palmer** became a special education advocate in 1997. He has taught special education law and advocacy at Continuing Legal Education courses, Advocacy groups, and at the annual conferences of The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates.

Brice is one of the curriculum developers for the Special Education Advocate Training program (SEAT). SEAT is a joint initiative of The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc. (COPAA) and The Center for Disability Studies and Community Inclusion at the University of Southern California University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. The purpose of the SEAT project is to develop a national training curriculum under an Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Research and Innovation Model Development Grant. Brice also taught the 2006 and 2007 SEAT pilot program courses in New York City with Barbara Ebenstein, Esq.

Brice's articles on advocacy topics have appeared in *The Beacon Journal*, on *Wrightslaw.com*, *Oregon Parents United*, *Conduct Disorders.com*, *Autism-pdd.net*, *Uniquelygifted.org*, *Bridges4kids.org*, and the *From Emotions to Advocacy* website.

**Education-A-Must** Dorothy French, Senior Advocate, with 10 years service, Executive Director and Founder of Education-A-Must, was trained as an Advocate through the Federation for Children with Special Needs and has also received training in Professional Coaching. She is a member of COPAA (Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates) and IDA, (International Dyslexia Society, and a parent of a special needs child).

**John O. Willis, Ed.D., S.A.I.F.**, is a Senior Lecturer in Assessment at Rivier College, where he has taught part-time since 1981. Since 1974, he has been Assessment Specialist at the Regional Services and Education Center, Amherst, NH, where he was also Director of Psychoeducational Services for ten years and Acting Executive Director for one.

He was a teacher, administrator, and evaluator at the Crotched Mountain School, Greenfield, NH, from 1969 to 1974. Dr. Willis is co-author, with Ron P. Dumont, Ed.D., NCSP, of the *Guide to Identification of Learning Disabilities* (3rd ed.) (Peterborough, NH: authors, 2004), author of "Diagnosis: Developing informed reading assessments and interpretations" in S. Brody (Ed.), *Teaching Reading: Language, Letters, and Thought* (2nd ed.) (Milford, NH: LARC Publishing, 2001), co-author of chapters in *Jerome Sattler's Assessment of Children: Cognitive Applications* (5th ed.) (San Diego: Jerome Sattler, 2008) and *Elaine Fletcher-Janzen & Cecil Reynolds's The Special Education Almanac* (New York: Wiley, 2006), and author or co-author of several articles.

He has taught courses for the University System of New Hampshire and Antioch/New England Graduate School and presented numerous workshops to parents, teachers, advocates, administrators, and psychologists.

**Gregory Van Buiten, Esquire** was born in Baltimore, Maryland and received his undergraduate degree in Philosophy from the University of Maryland. He attended the University of Maryland School of Law in Baltimore City, and was subsequently admitted to the Vermont and New Hampshire bars in 1982 and 1987 respectively. Although he has practiced in many other areas of the law, Greg has concentrated on special education law since 1987, representing students with educational disabilities and their parents in Vermont, New Hampshire, and other states. Representation includes a wide variety of issues, including evaluations, eligibility, IEP development, placement, discipline, and many others. Greg works with parents and advocates in school settings as well as mediations, due process hearings, resolution sessions, and federal appeals.

# Conference Agenda

## Friday, September 12, 2008

- 8:00-8:30 Registration  
8:30-9:30 Pre-referral Process COPE  
9:30-9:45 Break  
9:45-10:45 General Testing Information M. Farrall/J. Willis  
10:45-12:00 WISC-IV / KTEA-II M. Farrall/J. Willis  
12:00-1:00 Lunch  
1:00-2:15 WISC-IV / KTEA-II M. Farrall/J. Willis  
2:15-2:30 Break  
2:30-4:00 WISC-IV / KTEA-II M. Farrall/J. Willis  
4:00-4:30 Open Questions with Presenters

## Saturday, September 13, 2008

- 7:30-8:00 Registration  
8:00-9:30 IEP: As a whole document B. Palmer  
9:30-9:45 Break  
9:45-10:45 Preparing for IEP Meetings B. Palmer  
10:45-11:30 Negotiating for services at IEP meetings  
B. Palmer  
11:30-12:30 Lunch  
12:30-1:15 Negotiating for services at IEP meetings  
B. Palmer  
1:15-2:15 Placement G. Van Buiten  
2:15-2:30 Break  
2:30-3:30 Changes in NH regulations G. Van Buiten  
3:30-4:00 Open Questions with Presenters

---

One Day \$125.00  
Both Days [professional] \$220.00  
Both Days [parent] \$195.00

**Registration Fee includes:** Workshop materials, CEUs, CLEs, Morning coffee, Beverages, and Lunch.

# Conference Registration

## Special Education: A Guide Through the Process - Referral to Placement

Registration required by August 12, 2008.  
Please print clearly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

\_\_\_ \$125.00 one day (circle one: Friday or Saturday)

\_\_\_ \$220 Both days professional

\_\_\_ \$195 Both days parent

Conference Registration fees can be made online at:  
[www.Education-A-Must.com](http://www.Education-A-Must.com)

To pay by check:  
Make check payable in full to: COPE  
Please mail your registration form with your check to:  
COPE, P.O. Box 642, Derry, NH 03038

If you require assistance or have any questions regarding  
registration please Call: (603) 216-7685 or Email:  
[copenh@comcast.net](mailto:copenh@comcast.net)

## Conference Directions

**Best Western Courtyard Conference Center**  
13500 S Willow Street  
Manchester, NH 03103  
Phone: (603) 627-2525

---

·From: Interstate 93. (north or south) Take Exit 5. The Best Western Executive Court Inn & Conference Center is 3 miles north on Route 28.

·From: Interstate 293. Take Exit 1. The Best Western Executive Court Inn & Conference Center is 2½ miles south on South Willow Street.

·From: Airport. Exit terminal to Perimeter Road, turn left on Harvey Road, then take an immediate right onto Route 28 south (South Willow Street). The Best Western Executive Court Inn & Conference Center is ½ mile on the left.

