



ADVOCACY-IN-ACTION MODEL (AAM) PREPARING FUTURE TEACHERS THROUGH EDUCATION LAW & POLICY

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PROJECT SUMMARY:

Advocacy in Action moves UEAC's work from study & storytelling to solution design & deployment. Building on prior King-funded research and a documentary on inclusion, this one-day intensive legal seminar at Southwestern University functions as a design lab where legal concepts are translated into teacher-facing tools via a five-step Legal-to-Classroom Translation Process—identify → translate → rehearse → deploy → reflect. The conference welcomes leading, widely respected professionals in education law and gives Southwestern teachers a rare chance to network, practice day-to-day challenges with local legal coaches, and bridge gaps among teachers, parents, and administrators to better meet student needs. Through this conference Southwestern University turns research into action, building proactive schools and delivering measurable, positive impact for educational communities.

Concrete outputs: an open-source toolkit of decision trees (Child Find, discipline/manifestation, language access), ARD/IEP simulation cards with sample IEPs, template letters (evaluation, records/FERPA, complaints), meeting scripts & playbook, and advocacy flowcharts. "When X, use Tool Y" sidebars tie each tool to classroom use-cases (e.g., removal for behavior → manifestation flowchart + script), building a student-centered practice that preempts conflict offering the solution before the problem. Afternoon sessions use coached role-play to model a collaborative, village-building approach that reduces tension and fosters proactive, supportive relationships between educators and education-law advocates.

A 6-8 episode podcast extends impact with teacher/parent narratives and plain-language guidance (e.g., The Meeting Before the Meeting; Behavior ≠ Bad Kid). The result is a repeatable model with tools and processes educators can use on designed for adoption across programs and future years, strengthening the support system ("the village") around every student. Southwestern students convert research into tools that power proactive schools and real community impact.
