

## What do you need to take an online class?

---

Computer  
Internet access  
Email address  
Printer  
3-5 hours per week  
Willingness to learn

### About the Instructor

---

Donna Gilcher, has 16 years of experience as a K-12 teacher, administrator, and mentor. She holds a doctorate from NOVA Southeastern University, and a Master in Administration and Special Education specializing in Learning and Behavioral Disabilities. She also developed an alternative school for children with neurological disorders. Most recently, she was the Director of Education at the Child & Adolescent Bipolar Foundation (CABF), where she developed CABF's highly acclaimed online courses, an interactive Educator's Resource CD, and a variety of support materials for parents and teachers to ensure that children with pediatric bipolar disorder receive educational services that enhance their academic, social, and emotional well-being. Above all, comes the daily experience of parenting a child with bipolar disorder. It is this special understanding and compassion that led Donna to focus on the educational needs of children with pediatric bipolar disorder. Expanding on the success of these resources, Donna is now offering her classes to address the needs of parents of children with a variety of neurological, or hidden, disabilities for STARFISH Advocacy Association.



### STARFISH Advocacy Association

---

3341 Warrensville Center Road  
Shaker Hts., Ohio 44122

---

Phone: 216-283-2377  
Fax: 216-283-5019  
E-mail: [truenorthedu@adelphia.net](mailto:truenorthedu@adelphia.net)  
<http://www.starfishadvocacy.org>

# ONLINE CLASSES FOR PARENTS

STARFISH Advocacy  
Association



---

## Becoming a parent advocate

Classes start: various times  
Time: 24/7

On the web



Starfish Advocacy empowers parents and schools to work collaboratively for the benefit of the child.

STARFISH Advocacy Association (SAA) understands the challenges of parenting a child with a disability and the difficulty in getting appropriate educational accommodations for the child. STARFISH Advocacy specializes in neurological brain disorders such as Attention Deficit/Hyperactive Disorder, Bipolar Disorder and other Mood Disorders and Learning Disabilities. Through online classes, message boards and an interactive chat room, STARFISH Advocacy teaches parents how to analyze their child's strengths and needs, develop creative accommodations, and guides parents in becoming strong advocates for their child.

Located on the Web at  
<http://www.starfishadvocacy.org>

## Becoming an Effective Advocate

To become an effective advocate for your child with a neurological disorder requires learning the laws that provide your child access to a free and appropriate education as well as how your child learns so you can develop helpful accommodations.

## Introduction to Educational Advocacy

(7 week course)

**Dates:** New Classes Open Every 12 Weeks.

**Course Description:** Parents learn about their child's educational rights and how to become an advocate for their child with a neurological disorder. Parents learn how to obtain appropriate accommodations and services for their child, as well as information about the *No Child Left Behind Act* and the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*. Course materials are available 24 hours per day with a new module opening each week. "Live" teleconference sessions are scheduled during the course to enhance taught curriculum and focus on weekly homework assignments. This course requires weekly participation.

**Cost:** \$ 125.00

Registration is limited to 30 participants.

## Understanding your Child's Learning Needs (7 week course)

**Dates:** New Classes Open Every 12 Weeks

**Course Description:** Building on information learned in Introduction to Educational Advocacy, this course will include instruction on reading research and test data, understanding learning styles and how your child learns, as well as creating positive behavioral intervention plans. Understanding your Child's Learning Needs is an interactive course in which the learning style of each participant's child is addressed, providing parents

with suggested accommodations and modifications that will assist their child in life. Course materials are available 24 hours per day with a new module opening each week. One personal phone consultation with the instructor will occur with each participant to discuss their individual child's learning style and educational needs assessment.

**Cost:** \$ 125.00

Registration is limited to 15 participants.

To register go to  
<http://classes.starfishadvocacy.org>

## IDEA 2004 - The changes and what they mean to me?

**Dates:** New Classes Open Every 6 Weeks.

**Course Description:** This course will focus on the changes made to IDEA and how they will directly impact children with neurological disorders. Participants will need to have a working knowledge of educational advocacy through either completing Introduction to Educational Advocacy or have completed a CABF course entitled Parent Educational Advocacy 101. We will be exploring through lectures, activities and online discussion the changes in IDEA made to align with No Child Left Behind, Discipline, IEP, Early Intervention, Part C, Procedural Safeguards, Secondary Transitions, and more.

**Cost:** \$ 65.00

Registration is limited to 30 participants

<http://classes.starfishadvocacy.org/#idea>