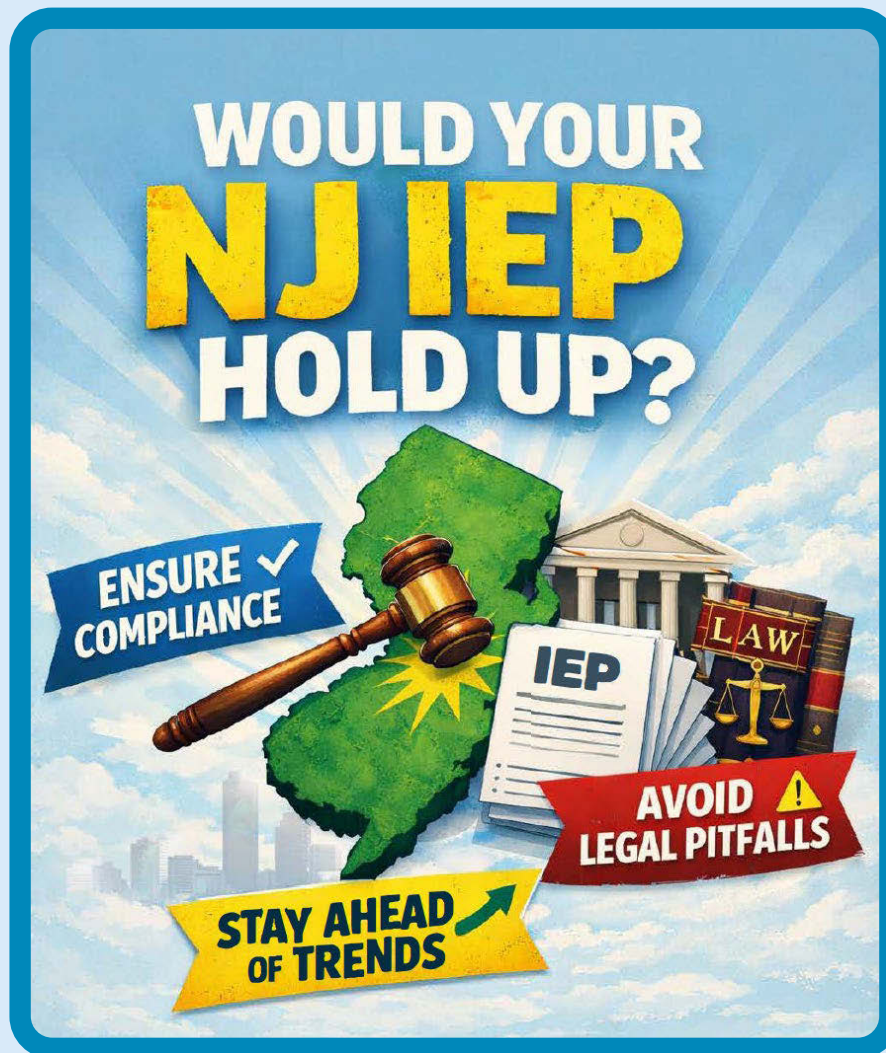


*The New Jersey Association of Learning Consultants*  
*~Spring Conference 2026~*



## **Defensible by Design**

**Friday, April 17, 2026**

**Parsippany Hilton, 1 Hilton Ct, Parsippany, NJ 07054**

**Space is limited - Register early!**

**8-9 AM Registration**

**9-11:30 AM Session**

**11:30 AM-12:30 PM Lunch and Business Meeting**

**12:30-3 PM Session**

# ~PRESENTATION~

## Writing Legally Defensible IEPs & Emerging Trends in Special Education: A Focus for LDT-Cs

~Presenter~

**Katherine Gilfillan, Esq.**

Katherine Gilfillan, Esq., has more than 15 years of experience providing advice and counsel to public institutions, including boards of education, college trustees, and public administrators in the area of labor and employment, contracting, governance, teacher and student discipline, FMLA/FLA, Title IX, FERPA, constitutional matters, collectively negotiated agreements/labor issues as well as special education.

As a special education attorney, Ms. Gilfillan regularly provides in-service trainings on topics such as writing legally compliant and defensible IEPs/504 Plans, eligibility determinations, HIB matters, pupil discipline, DCPP reporting, mental health evaluations, the necessity of home instruction services and confidentiality of pupil records. When a district and parent cannot resolve a disagreement over a student's program, Ms. Gilfillan litigates due process complaints in the Office of Administrative Law and prosecutes and defends appeals in both state and federal court. Further support is provided to clients for OSEP and OCR complaint investigations.

### ~Workshop Description~

This targeted workshop is designed specifically for Child Study Team members, with an emphasis on the critical role of Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultants. Participants will strengthen their skills in developing legally defensible IEPs that clearly connect evaluation data, present levels, goals, and services while meeting state and federal requirements. Practical guidance will be provided on documenting eligibility, justifying recommendations, and avoiding common compliance pitfalls that can lead to disputes. In addition, the session will explore current and emerging trends in special education in New Jersey, including evolving guidance on inclusive practices, data-driven decision-making, MTSS connections, and collaborative problem-solving with families and school teams. LDT-Cs will leave with concrete tools, updated knowledge, and renewed confidence to support sound educational planning and defensible recommendations for students with disabilities.

**A raffle will be held for several exciting giveaways including an NJALC annual membership.**



Registration for NJALC Spring Conference 2026

Defensible by Design

Friday, April 17, 2026

Space is limited - Register early!

Lunch will be provided.

NJALC is a professional development provider. Teachers and team members are welcome.

Conference fee: Members-\$225.00 Nonmembers-\$265.00

PLEASE USE BLUE OR BLACK PEN TO COMPLETE

Name:
Address:
Phone Number: Email:
Membership Status (please select status) Member (\$225.00):
Nonmember (\$265.00):

Paying for yourself?
Check here that a personal check is included with the completed registration form mailed to the correct address by March 31, 2026.
Check that you have included a valid email address.

Paying by credit card? Go to www.newjerseyalc.org by March 31, 2026. NO PO's or discount cards accepted.

District paying by PO? A personal holding check must be sent with the registration mailed by the participant.
Check that you included a "holding" check (which will be returned when the district pays) with your completed registration form mailed to the correct address by March 31, 2026.
Check that your Business Office mailed the PO to the correct address by March 31, 2026

If you do not receive an emailed confirmation, you are NOT registered.

\*All registrations are checked for current member status. Membership year is from July 1 to June 30.

To renew your membership or join ALC, a membership application is available online at www.newjerseyalc.org.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE- POs must be received by March 31, 2026

\*Registrations sent to other addresses will be returned to the sender\*

Register online: www.newjerseyalc.org

Or by mail

Send registration forms, POs, and checks to:

Success Communications Group
Attn: Laura Abal
100 S. Jefferson Rd, Suite 204
Whippany, NJ 07981

Questions:

labal@successcomgroup.com

Do not write in this section

Current member? Date received

Method of payment: Amount Action Taken

Sue Pensack  
10317 Upper Little Creek Road  
Bangor, PA 18013

Return to sender if unavailable

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Learn more about NJALC and your region at  
[www.newjerseyalc.org](http://www.newjerseyalc.org)

