

## Membership Application

Please read the following and indicate your agreement by signing below:

As a member, I understand that any use or reproduction of documents from COPAA's Web site without permission from COPAA is restricted to my personal use or use on behalf of a client to promote advocacy for a student with a disability. Any use contrary to the mission and purpose of COPAA is prohibited. Mass distribution is permitted only with the express written consent of COPAA. I certify that I am neither employed by nor receive more than 50% of my income from state, intermediate or local education agencies; nor am I an attorney who represents or has represented such an agency within the past five years. (School districts are local educational agencies.) School Board members may be considered for COPAA membership only under strict conditions. School Board members seeking to join COPAA must first email membership@copaa.org

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your  Home address and phone

Work address and phone

Membership Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adv  Att  Parent  Other  Org

Donation to support COPAA's work \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the application form and send it with your check, made payable to Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, to:

**COPAA, PO Box 6767, Towson, MD 21285**

## Membership Categories

❖ **Attorney**  
**\$150 annually** (passed the bar, regardless of the extent of practice, if any)

❖ **Advocate**  
**\$50 annually** (works in either a paid or volunteer capacity to help parents of children with disabilities in special education matters)

❖ **Parent \$50 annually** (has a child with a disability and does not fall into any other membership category)

❖ **Other \$50 annually**

❖ **Organizational Rate \$400 annually**

Applicants who work for the same organization may join at the individual rate or together at the organizational rate of \$400. Each member must complete an individual application and submit it with the organization's payment.

Please Note: You must give an email address to receive notice of all COPAA events. Use of the Internet and volunteerism are central to COPAA's activities, and we distribute materials electronically whenever possible to contain costs and communicate with members easily.

**Note:** COPAA qualifies as a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donation is tax deductible, and your membership dues may be, under the limits provided by law.

## What You Can Do

Support COPAA's mission by becoming a member and participating in our work. We encourage members to embrace the organization's spirit of volunteerism. You are also invited to support COPAA's mission through financial donations. COPAA uses donations to further its mission of securing quality educational opportunities for students with disabilities.

**The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc.**  
*Promoting excellence in special education advocacy nationwide*



**COPAA is a national voice for special education rights and promotes excellence in advocacy**

Apply and pay by credit card via a secure application online at [www.copaa.org](http://www.copaa.org)

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The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) believes that collaboration between parents and educators—as equals—is the key to an effective education for students with disabilities.

Attorneys and advocates work with parents to help protect the educational rights of students with disabilities. These rights include the right to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and other civil rights guaranteed by disabilities laws.

COPAA provides information and training on special education law and advocacy practice for advocates, attorneys, parents, and others.

**Please note: COPAA does not provide individual legal representation or advocacy services to parents.**

## Supporting the Educational Rights of Children with Disabilities

COPAA was formed in 1998 with the primary mission of advocating for appropriate educational services for students with disabilities. COPAA works to:

- Enable parents to work more effectively with school personnel to plan meaningful educational programs for their children with disabilities
- Encourage more attorneys and advocates to represent students with disabilities
- Provide advocates, attorneys, parents, and other professionals with the practical resources and information they need to obtain effective educational programs for students with disabilities
- Enable members to network and share information and legal resources
- Provide training for lay advocates on all aspects of special education advocacy and informal conflict resolution
- Provide training for attorneys on legal practice, including due process, litigation, and informal conflict resolution
- Enable parents to find advocates and attorneys through COPAA's website directory
- Files *amicus curiae* briefs in cases of national significance

## Benefiting Families, Attorneys, Advocates, and Professionals

Membership in COPAA offers many benefits to individuals involved in special education advocacy:

- Access to a closed, moderated, members-only general discussion listserv
- For those with attorney memberships, access to an attorneys-only listserv that offers them the opportunity to exchange ideas in this specialized practice area
- Practical training and informational resources necessary for participating effectively in special education advocacy and legal representation
- Access to COPAA's data banks of legal briefs and advocacy resources
- Reduced fees for COPAA's annual conference featuring a broad array of special education law and advocacy seminars
- The opportunity to network and exchange information with others nationwide who are striving to improve special education advocacy



[www.copaa.org](http://www.copaa.org)

Contact us by e-mail at [contact@copaa.org](mailto:contact@copaa.org)  
or by phone at 410-372-0208

**Join COPAA Today!**