**Candace Cortiella**

Candace is founder and director of The Advocacy Institute (AI) ([www.AdvocacyInstitute.org](http://www.AdvocacyInstitute.org)), a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of projects, products and services that work to improve the lives of people with disabilities. She has been a disability rights advocate for over 25 years, serving as a parent advocate and trainer, an expert on special education policy and on advisory boards of several national organizations and federal projects.

She has written extensively on the IDEA and ESEA, including parent guides produced by the National Center on Educational Outcomes and the Center for Parent Information and Resources. She is the parent of a young adult with learning disabilities.