



## Back to School Workshop 2026: Focus on Special Education

Presented by Andrea Ogonosky and Elvin Houston

### Agenda

#### *Navigating Close Calls in Special Education Eligibility Determinations*

##### **AM: When the Courts Consider 'close call' SLD and ID Eligibility Decisions**

8:30 am – 9:50 am                      Disability determinations and eligibility decisions are not always straightforward. This session focuses on how special education hearing officers and the courts analyze and apply SLD and ID disability/eligibility criteria under IDEA when there are mixed or borderline assessment results. **(Elvin Houston)**

9:50 – 10:05 am                      Break

10:05 am – 11:25 am                This session will follow up session 1 to discuss implementation of using multi-sourced data in making decisions consistently, documenting reasoning clearly, and reducing legal risk within the FIIE report when making difficult special education eligibility determinations. **(Andrea Ogonosky)**

11:25 – 12:55 pm                      Lunch

##### **PM: When the Courts consider Emotional/Behavioral Eligibility Decisions**

12:55 pm – 2:15 pm                    Disability determinations are especially challenging when students present with features of emotional disability, autism, and ADHD—in the presence of other factors that make the identification of any disability uncertain. How do the courts and hearing officers analyze and apply ED, AU, and OHI disability/eligibility criteria when there are mixed and conflicting data? **(Elvin Houston)**

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm                      Break

2:30 pm – 3:50 pm                    This session will follow up session 3 to discuss analysis and interpretation of divergent data when making recommendations about behavioral or other neurodivergent disabilities within the FIIE report. **(Andrea Ogonosky)**

3:50 pm                                      Adjourn

**Accreditation:** This training provides up to 5.5 hours of CLE Credit: SBEC and may meet local requirements for General Management Training.