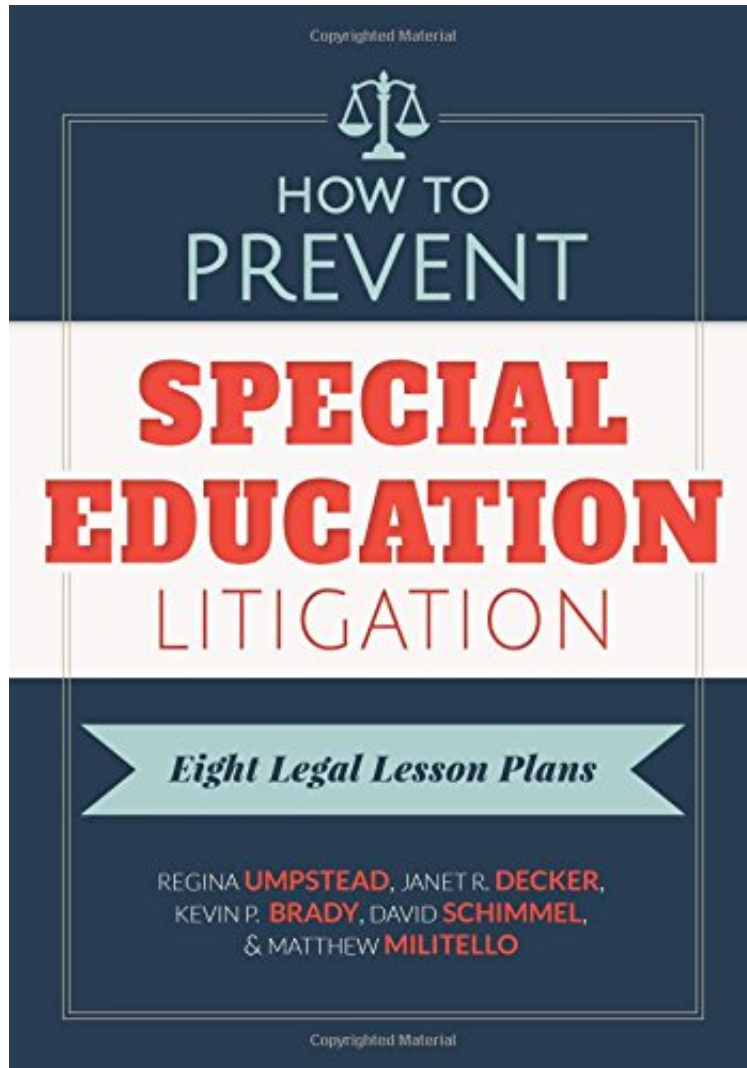


# How to Prevent Special Education Litigation: Eight Legal Lesson Plans

*Regina Umpstead, Janet Decker, Kevin Brady, David Schimmel, Matthew Militello*  
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**Regina Umpstead, Janet Decker, Kevin Brady, David Schimmel, Matthew Militello : How to Prevent Special Education Litigation: Eight Legal Lesson Plans** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Prevent Special Education Litigation: Eight Legal Lesson Plans:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thorough lessons, but dullBy LainieThe lessons are thorough, but rather dull.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Eight Legal Lesson Plans is an easy to readBy Mark DeschaineEducators are faced with many different mandates, initiatives and policies that they need to attend to on a

daily basis. One area that has been getting more attention over the years is how to deal effectively and appropriately with issues related to providing proper supports to students with disabilities. In order to effectively provide adequate levels of support, educators need to be well versed in special education law. Without a solid basis and understanding of the basic requirements mandated by the federal government, educators could find themselves dealing with legal issues in a hearing or court setting. *How to Prevent Special Education Litigation: Eight Legal Lesson Plans* is an easy to read, incredibly well written text that provides the reader with the important basics related to meeting federal mandates when providing appropriate supports and services to students with disabilities. Chapters cover the need for educators to learn about special education law, understanding the federal legal entitlements and mandates for students, eligibility for special education services, assuring that an individualized education plan is appropriate to meet student needs, educating students in the least restrictive environment, discipline of students with disabilities, transition planning, and family involvement. Each chapter provides solid information that is set up to be utilized by facilitators conducting professional development programs. The text offers ideas to help facilitators get started, a list of materials needed for the training, lesson background information and objectives, activities for the participants, questions, and an assessment activity. I plan to adopt this manual for the course that I teach for aspiring school administrators seeking special education administrative endorsement. I found the text to be easy to read, yet still maintains the integrity of the content appropriate to meet the needs of administrators in a wide variety of settings. It is a wonderful addition to other resources that I currently have assembled for the course.

It is essential that today's educators and school leaders are more informed about the legal rights and entitlements of students with disabilities. This resource provides eight easy-to-implement lesson plans on special education law that require no legal knowledge and can be facilitated by school principals, special education directors, teachers, or university instructors. In short one-hour sessions, participants learn by engaging in practical activities instead of only passive reading about the law. All of the lessons utilize actual situations that have led to expensive litigation and each includes the following sections: Introduction for Facilitators; Materials Needed; Background, Purpose, and Objectives of the Lesson; Hook; Activity; Questions for Conversation; Test Your Knowledge; and Additional Resources. This one-of-a-kind book will help schools and districts reduce the time and energy devoted to dealing with violations of the law, resolving parental complaints, correcting errors by school employees, and more.

About the Author Regina Umpstead is an associate professor of educational leadership at Central Michigan University. Janet R. Decker is an assistant professor of educational leadership at Indiana University's School of Education. Kevin P. Brady is an associate professor in the department of curriculum and instruction at the University of Arkansas. David Schimmel is professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Matthew Militello is a professor and the Wells Fargo Endowed Chair of Educational Leadership at East Carolina University.