



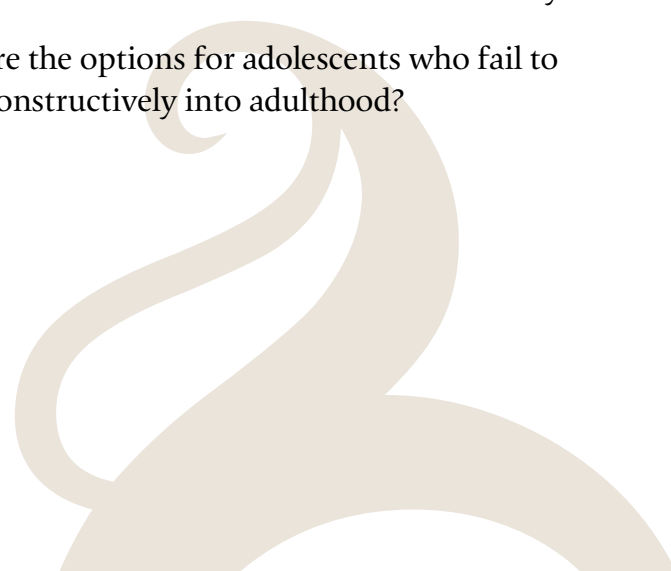
# Expert Guidance for Therapeutic Placements

An Independent Educational  
Consultant Can Help Parents  
of Adolescents or Pre-Teens  
During These Difficult Years



**IECA member consultants who specialize in therapeutic placements have extensive experience with mental health diagnoses, adolescent behaviors, substance abuse, emotional disabilities, and learning differences. They are able to help families during a time of crisis and offer support and direction to recommend the best intervention and solution.**

When your child, adolescent, or young adult is not succeeding in their current school, college, or home environment, IECA member educational consultants can assist with these common concerns:

- How do you know when and what kind of treatment environment is necessary?
  - What type of interventions are available?
  - When should we consider a residential school or treatment program?
  - Would a wilderness therapy program be a good choice, or would an emotional growth boarding school be better, given our unique circumstances?
  - What would be best for our child and our family?
  - What are the options for adolescents who fail to move constructively into adulthood?
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## IECA Educational Consultants Guide Families who are in Crisis

Parents may not be aware of the treatment options available. IECA members help families through the entire process. They:

- Bring clarity and direction to families during difficult times.
- Assess your child's unique emotional, behavioral, and academic needs.
- Evaluate educational and treatment options.
- Coordinate with other expert professionals nationwide.
- Recommend solutions and guide families through the decision making process.





## IECA member consultants are trained experts with comprehensive knowledge of placement options.

IECA members are:

**Professionally qualified**, multidisciplinary experts in therapeutic issues with a direct knowledge of treatment options nationwide.

**Knowledgeable, as they regularly visit schools and programs** across the country and internationally to evaluate and monitor program success and quality.

**Well-informed as they evaluate programs** through personal program tours, conference attendance, shared resources, and research the history, licensure, and evidenced based outcomes for programs.

**Part of a national network** for advice and consultation for complex cases.

**Ongoing learners** staying abreast of best practices and current research.

**Impartial**, maintain objective assessment of placement options.

**Independent**, they accept no placement fee from schools or programs and work only for the family.

IECA educational consultants advise parents on all facets of their child's care. This collaborative and confidential assistance can bring long-awaited solutions to families. IECA members are thorough in their assessment and evaluative processes, conducting extensive histories and interviews of family members, school personnel, and other key referring professionals.

## What to Expect When You Work with an IECA Member Educational Consultant

IECA members adhere to a strict code of ethics and are the most highly trained and experienced independent educational consultants (IECs) in the profession. You can rest assured that you are working with an IEC who will find the best options for your child.

**Testing:** In addition to collaborating with all the professionals involved in a child's care, an IECA member may decide that a comprehensive evaluation is needed to assess a child's cognitive and emotional functioning. Although teens who are "acting out" can appear very similar, the underlying roots of the behavior may be quite different. An individualized approach is necessary to respond to each child's particular needs.

**Research:** IECA member consultants research programs to find the best fit for your child. Because they have helped a variety of teens in crisis, they are aware of a multitude of options and can target the best choices. IECA members spend a significant amount of their time visiting schools and programs across the country. Since they are not compensated by any program or institution, IECA members can objectively concentrate on what is best for your child and the family.

**Follow-Up:** After your child is placed in a therapeutic program, the IECA member will follow up to monitor his/her progress. They often work as advisors to a treatment team in conjunction with therapists, and can serve as a support for parents. An IEC will look beyond the current placement and assist in planning for your child's continued progress.

# About the Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA)

IECA was founded in 1976 as a non-profit, professional association of established independent educational consultants. As the nation's respected voice of the profession, IECA sets the standards, leads the discussion, and serves as the public face of independent educational consulting to the media, colleges, and other professionals. When a family chooses an independent educational consultant who is a member of IECA, they are assured that the consultant is experienced, highly trained, and committed to the profession's highest standards for ethical practices.

IECA members help find the right school, college, or program for your student. IECA member educational consultants are independent from educational institutions, never accept payment from a school or program in exchange for placement, and work only in the best interest of the student and the family.

To find an IECA member, search our online database at [www.IECAonline.com](http://www.IECAonline.com) or call our office for a free copy of our print directory: 703-591-4850.



## Independent Educational Consultants Association

3251 Old Lee Highway • Suite 510  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
703-591-4850  
[www.IECAonline.com](http://www.IECAonline.com)  
[info@IECAonline.com](mailto:info@IECAonline.com)

