

WHO WE ARE-

South Jersey Legal Services, Inc. (SJLS) is a private non-profit law firm whose mission is to provide high quality civil legal services free of charge to eligible low-income residents of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem Counties.

WHAT IS EDUCATION LAW-

It deals with all civil education matters, including but not limited to:

- Special Education
- 504's
- Discipline
- Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying
- Homelessness
- Truancy
- Registration
- Early Intervention
- Transportation
- Bilingual Education

WHEN TO CONTACT SJLS-

- When your child is struggling in school;
- When you need help securing services or dealing with the Child Study Team;
- You are dealing with homelessness and want your child's educational rights protected;
- When your child is a victim of bullying;
- When you're struggling with truancy;
- When your child needs bilingual assistance.

****WHEN YOU WANT TO KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND THE RIGHTS OF YOUR STUDENT****

SOUTH JERSEY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

**Centralized Intake Unit
(800) 496-4570**

**Intake Hours
Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**



**SOUTH JERSEY
LEGAL SERVICES,
INC.**

EDUCATION LAW PROJECT





HARASSMENT INTIMIDATION & BULLYING -

- Designed to deal with bullying on and off of school grounds which disrupts the operation of the school;
- Very specific criteria to meet the statutory standard;
- Parent has a right to have a hearing with the BOE;
- SJLS will help students who have been victims of bullying but also students who may have been wrongfully accused or found guilty of bullying.

TRUANCY-

- A student is truant if they have unexcused absences of 10 or more;
- A District must take steps to curb the absences prior to the student accumulating 10;
- After 10 absences the District must refer the matter to the court program;
- Parents are ultimately responsible for the student's attendance and can face fines and even jail time for their student's truancy.



SPECIAL EDUCATION -

How can SJLS help parents and students with special education issues?

- ❖ Provide form letters to help request evaluations, services and meetings;
- ❖ Help you appeal a denial of special education classification or services;
- ❖ Represent you at Child Study Team meetings when needed;
- ❖ Help to enforce your child's IEP or 504;
- ❖ Provide advice and representation when your classified student faces suspension or expulsion due to behaviors stemming from their disability;
- ❖ Help to determine appropriate placement or services;
- ❖ Help you to obtain compensatory education or extended school year services when appropriate.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

--Nelson Mandela

BASIC EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS -

- To a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) ages 5-20;
- Intervention measures in truancy matters;
- Notice and opportunity to defend and appeal more severe disciplinary actions;
- Manifestation Determination Hearing before long term suspension (if Special Ed.);
- Protections from harassment, intimidation & bullying (HIB);
- Right to defend against an accusation of bullying;
- Access to education
 - despite immigration status
 - in home district during homelessness
 - transportation
 - with accommodations for medical limitations
- Bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) Education;
- Early Intervention Services;
- Special Education evaluation;
- Special Education services (if qualified).