



ABOUT

LEGAL AID OF NORTH CAROLINA

Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC) is a statewide, nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services in civil matters to low-income people in order to ensure equal access to justice and to remove barriers to economic opportunity. LANC helps individuals, families, and communities with legal problems affecting basic human needs, such as family, health, housing, employment, education, and income. It provides services in all 100 counties in North Carolina through 24 offices and eight statewide projects.

OUR STATEWIDE PROJECTS:

- Advocates for Children’s Services
- Battered Immigrant Project
- Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative
- Fair Housing Project
- Farmworker Unit
- Medical-Legal Partnership
- Mortgage Foreclosure Project
- Senior Law Project

For more information, visit www.legalaidnc.org.



ABOUT

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Advocates for Children’s Services (ACS) is a statewide project of Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC). ACS staff work to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline and achieve education justice through legal advocacy, community education, and collaboration. ACS focuses on systemic education reform while providing technical assistance and support to local LANC offices so they can take a variety of individual education cases. ACS does not lobby, organize, or engage in class action litigation.

For more advocacy resources, including a *Know Your Rights Handbook*, and to learn more about ACS’ impact work, visit www.legalaidnc.org/acs or contact us at acsinfo@legalaidnc.org or 919.226.0052.



For case referrals, call 1.866.219.5262 or apply online at www.legalaidnc.org.

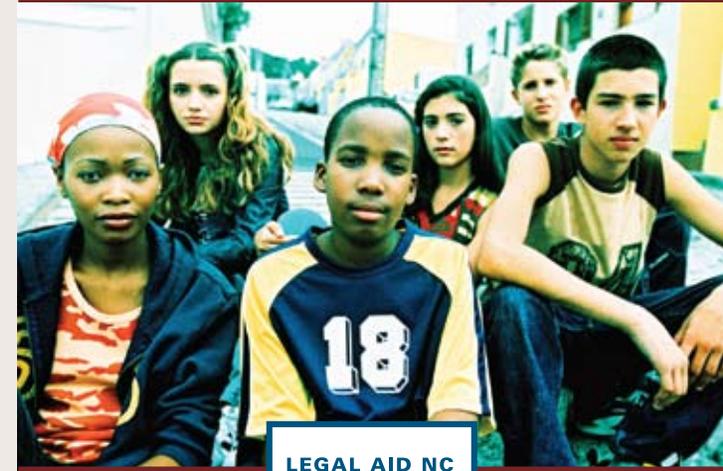
FREE LEGAL SERVICES

for

STUDENTS & PARENTS

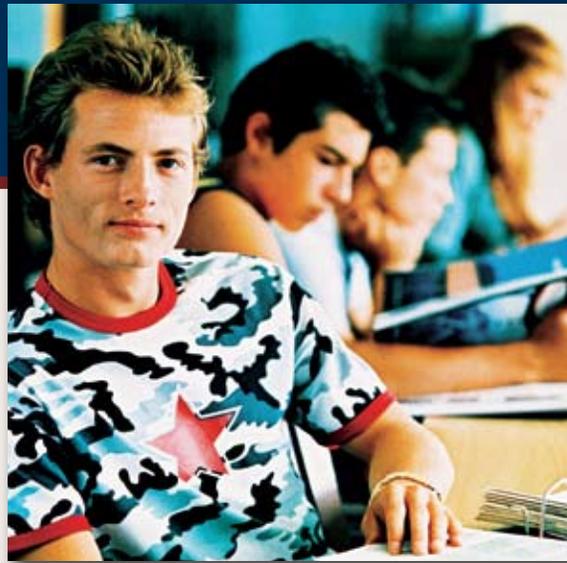
Call 1.866.219.5262
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Dedicated to education justice
and dismantling the school-to-prison
pipeline in North Carolina



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN NC PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

- Students have a right to enroll in public school if they meet certain requirements.
- Parents/guardians and eligible students (i.e., students age 18 and older) have a right to review student education records and challenge incorrect information.
- Students who are failing or at risk of academic failure have a right to a Personal Education Plan (PEP) that includes a diagnostic evaluation, interventions (e.g., tutoring, Saturday school, and smaller classes), and progress monitoring strategies.
- Students who have a disability and need special education have a right to an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and a free and appropriate public education (including during long-term suspension) in the least restrictive environment (i.e., with non-disabled peers to the greatest extent possible).
- Students facing short-term suspension (one to 10 school days) have a right to notice and an opportunity to tell their side of the story, take textbooks home, get missed assignments, and make up exams.
- Students have a right to be free from bullying.



- Students facing long-term suspension (11 school days or more) have a right to: written notice; review evidence against them; have a hearing before an unbiased decision-maker where they can bring an attorney, present evidence and witnesses, cross-examine witnesses against them, and make a recording; appeal to the local board of education; appeal to the local superior court; and be offered alternative education, unless the school district has an important reason not to offer it.
- Students have a right to be free from self-incrimination (i.e. protections during interrogations), unreasonable search and seizure, and excessive force.
- Students have a right to be free from discrimination based on race, national origin (including being denied translation/interpretation), sex, age, and disability.

WHAT CAN LEGAL AID OF NORTH CAROLINA DO FOR YOU?

LEGAL REPRESENTATION

LANC attorneys provide high-quality, free legal advice and representation for students who are:

1. from low-income families or in foster care; and
2. U.S. citizens or refugees.

LANC attorneys assist in matters such as:

- Enrollment
- Academic failure
- Special education
- Suspension and expulsion
- Transfers to alternative school
- Bullying
- Discrimination
- Mistreatment by school security personnel

LANC does not handle child support, custody, divorce, or criminal matters.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

LANC also provides:

- Presentations and trainings for students, parents, service providers, advocates, educators, and other concerned citizens
- Publications, such as fact sheets, issue briefs, and self-help guides
- Media outreach, such as press releases, interviews, letters to the editor, and op-eds