

## Youth Education Law Collaborative

### What is the Youth Education Law Collaborative?

The [Youth Education Law Collaborative](#) is a group of legal services organizations helping children and youth who are having problems with education. We advocate to make education more equitable for all students. We want to partner with communities who experience inequities by sharing information, opportunities, and resources to find solutions. Our goal is to build a new system of education advocacy that's equitable and responsive to the needs of diverse communities.

The collaborative is funded by the Washington [Office of Civil Legal Aid](#) and staffed by the [Northwest Justice Project](#), [TeamChild](#), [Kids in Need of Defense](#), [Disability Rights Washington](#), and [Washington Autism Alliance](#). [Seattle University](#) provides volunteer law students.

### Why did the collaborative come together?

We are concerned that

- Schools did not provide some youth with disabilities an education during the pandemic, and those students are still not getting what they need.
- Schools are suspending and expelling youth, pushing them out to alternative schools, filing truancy petitions, and not meeting students' basic needs when they return to in-person school.
- Bullying, harassment, and discrimination are happening in schools without enough support and intervention.
- Some students dropped out of school during the pandemic when remote learning didn't work, and they have never returned to school.
- Schools fail to provide language access to students and their families, making it more difficult for them to receive an education.

### Does the collaborative provide direct legal services?

Yes. We provide counsel, advice, and representation within our resources, regarding these issues:

- Special education and Section 504 plans,
- Discrimination complaints,

- School discipline,
- Harassment/intimidation/ bullying complaints,
- McKinney Vento appeals for youth experiencing homelessness, and
- School transfer and enrollment issues.

### **Who is eligible for our services?**

Youth who are low-income (under 200% of the federal poverty level) and their families. Our special focus is serving youth with additional risks, such as those who have disabilities or are

- BIPOC,
- LGBTQIA,
- English Language Learners have families who are limited English proficient,
- Unaccompanied immigrant children,
- Immigrants or refugees, or
- Incarcerated or detained.

### **How can I get help?**

There is no wrong door for screening and intake. Screening and intake will be done both through NJP's CLEAR and special education clinic, and at all of the programs participating in this collaborative. **Call 1-206-707-0877 or TOLL FREE 1-844-435-7676 to get help now!**

### **What else does the collaborative do?**

- Provide trainings and information to students, families, and education advocates.
- Build relationships and partner with communities on education advocacy work because we believe impacted communities should decide resource and advocacy priorities.
- Support youth leaders, especially youth of color with disabilities and youth of color who experience educational barriers or have juvenile court involvement.
- Systemic advocacy through litigation, policy change, and long-term planning to address service gaps.