

EdLaw Mission

The **EdLaw Project** is an advocacy organization created to ensure equal opportunity in life achievement for Boston youth by enforcing every child's right to a quality education. We promote growth and stability in the lives of children and make an impact on education policy through:

- **Child-empowered legal representation** in matters of school discipline, academic failure, and ineffective reintegration following detention and incarceration;
- **Increasing recognition** of indicators of unmet educational needs, the link between academic failure and delinquency, student rights, & available legal and non-legal resources to empower families, youth-serving professionals and educators in their advocacy on behalf of children;
- **Supporting the community-set agenda of improving education** by assisting community members, local groups, and statewide organizations in developing effective family-centered and data-driven education policies.

The EdLaw Project

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The EdLaw Project is an initiative of the Children's Law Center of Massachusetts and the Youth Advocacy Project.

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Information for Children and Their Families

"Without education, you're not going anywhere in this world."

Malcolm X

The EdLaw Project located in Roxbury is an advocacy organization working to ensure that all of Boston's youth have access to a quality education and that they receive the care they need for their educational growth, development, and success.

EdLaw works to empower children and families to engage effectively with the school system in order to achieve their educational goals.

EdLaw Services

Consultation and Direct Advocacy

EdLaw Project Staff Attorneys are available if you have any questions regarding a young person's education rights, the responsibilities of the school, or disciplinary actions against a student. The EdLaw Project can offer information as well as referrals to relevant services.

The EdLaw Project offers expert legal representation to **students living in the city of Boston**. Staff attorneys provide advocacy in education matters to ensure that young people have access to appropriate education services and are not excluded from school.



Resources

Project staff are available to anyone for consultation calls, addressing issues such as education rights, the responsibilities of the school, disciplinary action against a youth, and appropriate referrals.

Call EdLaw when a student:

- Is consistently receiving poor grades/Poor Academic Progress
- Is not attending school regularly or is being kept out of school
- Receives notice for a suspension or expulsion hearing—What are the student's rights?
- Is not performing at grade level
- Is frequently disciplined
- Needs or is referred to have a "core evaluation"
- Is not receiving the educational services s/he requires
- Has questions regarding services in his/her *Individualized Education Plan*, also called an *IEP*, or for Special Education Referrals & Requests
- Is considering Alternative Education

Training

Enhancing academic achievement and promoting school success for all public school students is a challenge that must be faced and met by the entire community. **The EdLaw Project** offers free trainings for parents/families and others, on how to advocate for proper education services as well as how to recognize unmet educational needs in children.

EdLaw PROJECT

A History of Results

Since 2000, EdLaw has provided direct legal services to nearly 800 children; presented over 200 trainings on education rights to over 1500 students, parents, attorneys, and others; provided consultations to over 750 parents and community organizers statewide; and collaborated with over two-dozen groups and coalitions