

# KNOW YOUR EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS!



## SCHOOLS CANNOT SUSPEND STUDENTS IN PRESCHOOL THROUGH SECOND GRADE

With limited exceptions, they cannot remove a child from a program or call a parent to pick up the child because of disruptive behavior. School staff must work with parents and appropriate professionals to address challenging behaviors in a positive, supportive way.

[Learn more.](#)

## CHARTER SCHOOLS MUST FOLLOW ALL THE SAME LAWS AS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

A charter school student is protected by the same rules as a student in a school district, including rules on special education and discipline.

[Learn more.](#)

## FREE AND REDUCED-FEE BREAKFAST, LUNCH, MILK, OR AFTER SCHOOL SNACKS

Contact your child's school district or the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Food and Nutrition, School Nutrition Programs at (609) 984-0692 for information about meal and snack programs.

[Learn more.](#)

## A SCHOOL MUST PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR ANY STUDENT SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL, EVEN THOSE SUSPENDED FOR 10 DAYS OR FEWER

Schools must provide services within five days of any out-of-school suspension. In most cases, an instructor will visit the student's home or an agreed-upon location (such as a public library) at least three times a week for a total of 10 hours. A parent or other adult must be present.

[Learn more.](#)



IF  
YOU ARE STAYING WITH  
FAMILY OR FRIENDS IN ANOTHER  
TOWN BECAUSE YOU LOST YOUR HOUSING,  
YOUR CHILD MAY BE ABLE TO REMAIN IN THEIR  
CURRENT SCHOOL

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law that grants rights and protections to students who lack fixed, adequate and regular housing. This includes the right to stay in their current school and receive transportation even if the family is living in another school district. [Learn more.](#)

NEW  
JERSEY SCHOOLS  
CANNOT REQUIRE A COPY  
OF A LEASE OR A PHOTO DRIVER'S  
LICENSE AT REGISTRATION

A school must accept any proof of residency you have. If the school does not believe that your documents prove your residency, school officials must give you written notice (a letter) of their decision. If you appeal or challenge their decision within 21 days, your child must be able to register for school. [Learn more.](#)

SPECIAL  
EDUCATION IS  
NOT JUST FOR ACADEMIC OR  
INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGES

Some children have behavioral, social-emotional, or communication-related needs even if they meet academic requirements. If you think your child needs special education, send a letter to the school's child study team asking for an evaluation and keep a copy of your request. A meeting to discuss your request must be held within 20 days. If you do not agree with the school's decision, you have the right to challenge it. [Learn more.](#)

More detailed information about these topics can be found on our website at [lsnjlaw.org/legal-topics/school-learning](https://lsnjlaw.org/legal-topics/school-learning) or by scanning the QR code below. If you have a question about your child's education rights, you may contact the LSNJLAW<sup>SM</sup> Statewide Legal Hotline, online at [www.lsnjlawhotline.org](https://www.lsnjlawhotline.org) or by calling 1-888-LSNJ-LAW (1-888-576-5529).

CHILDREN  
WHO HAVE AN  
INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION  
PROGRAM (IEP) ARE ENTITLED TO  
RELATED SERVICES

Examples could include transportation, one-on-one aides, and speech/occupational/physical therapy. [Learn more.](#)



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