

# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR RELEASE AT WILL

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### **LATEST LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT ISSUES AND HELP FOR TODDLERS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS**

EDISON— Details and advice about the rights of children, from five to 20 years of age — even those who may be homeless or undocumented immigrants — to register for schools in New Jersey are spelled out in the latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ).

The bilingual publication, “Looking Out For Your Legal Rights,” is accessible online at [Looking Out for Your Legal Rights, August 2017](#) and also is available at all Legal Services offices in New Jersey. The newsletter also advises parents with children under three years of age who have shown developmental problems about early intervention programs designed for toddlers with difficulties in walking, talking or playing with others.

Regarding school enrollment, the latest issue explains that in most cases a school district cannot deny admission to students because of their immigration status and, in fact, cannot ask for proof of immigration status as a condition for enrollment or even threaten to contact federal immigration officials. There are strict rules governing when school districts can deny admission, and such decisions may be appealed.

In addition to federal law, New Jersey has rules designed to ensure that homeless students have the same right to a free public education as any other student. These rules cover those in temporary or transitional housing and those living in shelters or mobile homes.

Additionally, the newsletter advises there are three different types of high school equivalency tests people can take to obtain a state-issued diploma.

The early intervention programs available to parents of children under three years of age are crucial because children generally learn and develop the most during their early preschool years. Such programs include, for example, physical therapy, speech therapy, family counseling, and health and medical services, among others. Parents who think their child needs such intervention services may request an evaluation by calling 1-888-653-4463.

*Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of five independent non-profit corporations and has been providing free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people through offices in all 21 counties for more than 50 years. Since its inception, LSNJ has provided representation in more than 2.4 million cases.*

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