

Legal Services of New Jersey
100 Metroplex Drive at Plainfield Avenue
P.O. Box 1357
Edison, New Jersey 08818-1357

Contact: Harvey Fisher
Office Phone: 732-529-8430
Cell Phone: 908-616-9941
Email: hfisher@lsnj.org

FOR RELEASE AT WILL

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**LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON CHANGES
HELPING SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS IMPACTED BY COVID-19**

EDISON — The latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) highlights key changes to compensate special education students for learning experiences impacted by Covid-19 that did not meet acceptable state standards.

The bilingual publication, “Looking Out For Your Legal Rights,” may be viewed online at www.lsnjlaw.org.

The newsletter notes that students with disabilities usually are entitled to compensatory education if the “special individualized education program” or IEP set for them essentially is inadequate. Now that has been made clear that if the IEP was not fully implemented because of Covid or if the affected students were unable to participate in virtual instruction during Covid, compensatory education services are available to make up for the losses.

The related article sets out what parents must do to initiate the request for compensatory education, and that Sept 1, 2023 is the deadline for such formal requests.

In most circumstances special education students lose their eligibility when they reach age 21. However, those who reached that cutoff during the Covid years now will be eligible for an extra year in special education.

More information about compensatory education and the one-year extension for special education students is available from the LSNJLAW Hotline at www.lsnjlawhotline.org or 1-888-576-5529.

Among other articles in the May publication is a piece about the workings of the state's Public Meetings Act, and another spelling out the state Department of Education guidelines on preventing trafficking of students.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of six independent nonprofit corporations and has been providing free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people through offices in all 21 counties for 55 years. Since its inception, LSNJ has provided representation in more than 2.7 million cases.

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