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**LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON KEY RIGHTS
OF STUDENTS AND PARENTS IN THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR**

EDISON — The latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) centers on some important rights and issues for students and parents in the new school year.

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

The publication also offers detailed articles on what to know about Monkeypox, how to understand wage garnishment procedures, and how to navigate the process for requesting and reviewing unemployment records.

With the new school year having just begun, the focus of the publication is on several education-related issues.

One point emphasized, especially for families with low incomes, is that a new state program provides subsidies for the purchase of internet and related equipment that can be used for school work, telemedicine conferences, and virtual child visits, among other needs. The program offers a discount of up to \$30 per month for internet services, and a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or a tablet.

Here is a sampling of the many school-related points highlighted in the newsletter:

- Charter schools must follow the same laws as public schools.
- When students are registering, schools initially cannot require a copy of a lease or photo driver's license as proof of residence.
- Regardless of circumstance, students cannot be suspended until they are in third grade, and schools must provide educational services for any suspended students even those suspend for up to 10 days.
- Parents who believe their child should be in a "Individualized Education Program" or IEP because behavioral or other learning issues can seek a special evaluation from the school's child study team.
- A school can change the IEP without parental approval, but that is open to subsequent challenge and possible mediation.

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 nearly 9 million cases.

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