

## ABOUT US:

Disability Rights New Jersey, a nonprofit organization, is New Jersey's designated Protection and Advocacy agency under federal law. We advance the human, civil, and legal rights of persons with disabilities and promote their self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration into all facets of community life.

## THE GOAL:

The project is designed to help young people get off and stay off the school-to-prison pipeline.

## THE ISSUE:

Students who qualify for special education are entitled to educational and behavioral supports but are too often disciplined and segregated from general education peers instead. Students with disabilities, particularly students of color, are disproportionately suspended, expelled, and referred to law enforcement or arrested.

## PROJECT DETAILS:

Disability Rights NJ was awarded a "Mis-incarceration" grant administered by the National Disability Rights Network, with funding from the Ford Foundation.

Working closely with the Office of the Public Defender, the project is staffed by an administrative assistant, staff attorney(s), and a managing attorney to provide advocacy to court-involved youth including issues like

- School Discipline
- Appropriate placement
- Appropriate services and supports
- Re-enrollment

The project also serves as a resource on special education issues during juvenile proceedings, for example when a youth is facing a charge from a school-based incident

*The Special Education and Juvenile Justice Project is based on a very successful Disability Rights NJ project from approximately 10 years ago in Burlington County with funding from the MacArthur Foundation.*

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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