

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION:**

**Regina Ann Smith,**

Staff Attorney  
rsmith@disabilityrightsnj.org

**Disability Rights  
New Jersey**

210 S. Broad Street,  
Trenton, NJ 08608

800-922-7233 or  
609-292-9742

**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 too often disciplined and segregated from classrooms, rather than receiving needed educational and behavioral supports. Students with disabilities, particularly students of color, are disproportionately suspended, expelled, and referred to law enforcement or arrested.

**PROJECT DETAILS:**

Disability Rights New Jersey was awarded a “Mis-incarceration” grant administered by the National Disability Rights Network, with funding from the Ford Foundation.

The project is staffed by Disability Rights New Jersey law clerk, Regina Ann Smith.

Working closely with the Office of the Public Defender, Disability Rights New Jersey will:

- Provide special education advocacy to youth facing juvenile charges or who are court-involved, for example:
  - School Discipline Issues – Suspension and Expulsion
  - Re-enrollment in School
  - School Placement
  - New Educational Services
- Serve 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 New Jersey project from approximately 10 years ago in Burlington County with funding from the MacArthur Foundation.

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ABOUT **DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW JERSEY**

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.