

family. health. education.

**It shouldn't take a lawyer to get a child a good education.
But often it does.**

Children's Law Center works to give every child in the District of Columbia a solid foundation of family, health, and education. Children who live in poverty, move through the foster care system, or struggle with disabilities often face barriers to accessing a quality education.

Kyle uses a wheelchair, but his school had no ramps. He was carried upstairs to his classroom and even to the bathroom. Not surprisingly, Kyle was insulted and embarrassed. As his grades and self-esteem plummeted, the school system decided that Kyle couldn't attend school at all. They sent him home and provided a tutor only one hour a week.

♦CLC fought for Kyle's transfer to an accessible school. He graduated and is now in college.

At 4, **Xavier** had been suspended from his prekindergarten classroom multiple times for kicking off his shoes and having a tantrum. Xavier's mother told the school she was concerned he might have special needs. That should have led to an evaluation and individual accommodations for Xavier. Instead, after another tantrum a few months later, the school threatened to expel Xavier.

♦CLC forced the school to evaluate Xavier and provide him with special education services.

Mikaylah loved school, especially science class. After confiding in a teacher that her mom was abusive, Mikaylah went into foster care. She was placed with a family across town who wanted to give her a fresh start and enrolled her in a new school. But Mikaylah missed her friends and teachers. She was so upset that she started acting out and her grades dropped, even in science.

♦CLC stepped in before things got worse. Recognizing that returning to her home school was in Mikaylah's best interests, CLC advocated for transportation to make that possible.

Children have the right to an education, but for many parents it's not clear just what that means. That's where Children's Law Center comes in. CLC attorneys are experts in DC school policies and education law. They know what the legal requirements are, who is responsible for meeting them, and how to press for action. This knowledge gives them the power to hold the school system accountable so that Kyle, Xavier, and Mikaylah—and hundreds more children like them—get the education they deserve.

Visit www.childrenslawcenter.org to learn more.