Children’s Law Center opens educational doors for children.

The Need

A good education is a child’s building block for future success. But today, too many schools are failing DC’s children.

Children growing up in poverty often enter kindergarten behind their peers – and the gap widening if they have developmental delays. Unfortunately, too many of the 13,000 DC children with physical, emotional or learning disabilities are not getting appropriate special education services, causing them to fall even further behind. In addition, too many children exposed to trauma are in classrooms poorly equipped to support their needs.

Education reforms in the District will not fully succeed if schools do not educate all children. The cost of failing DC’s children is too high – for them and our community.

Our Work

Children’s Law Center fights so that children in DC can get the education they need to thrive.

First, we help children start school ready to learn by ensuring infants and toddlers with developmental delays get help early. When children reach school age, we help families advocate so DC’s schools provide the special education support their children need and find alternatives to unnecessary suspensions and expulsions.

For children in foster care, we fight so they can stay with trusted adults in a familiar school no matter where they move. For older teens in care, we help get them support to successfully complete high school and start college or job training – putting them on a path to greater success.

Our policy work takes what we learn from individual cases to help us advocate for District-wide changes – including historic special education reforms enacted in 2015, and a focus on making schools more trauma sensitive.

Learn more

www.childrenslawcenter.org