

“Small-scale child advocacy organizations carry an awesome responsibility, when one considers the resources at their disposal. They help individual children to get their rights under existing laws; they work to act as the conscience of their communities and states in awakening the public to children’s needs.”

Harold Howe II

As we continue in our endeavors to support students and help them to achieve their optimum potential, we would like to thank the generous individuals and organizations who support us.

- * Speckhard-Knight Foundation
- * City of Ann Arbor
- * Washtenaw County Family Courts and Department of Human Services
- * Beckwith Civil Liberties
- * Washtenaw County United Way
- * W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- * Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

“What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must the community want for all its children. Any other ideal for our schools is narrow and unlovely, acted upon, it destroys our democracy.”

John Dewey



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Our Community Pledge

- * Every child will be a student
- * Every student will be a graduate
- * Every graduate will be employed

Please visit our website to see how you can lend a hand, support a dream, and change the world.

The Student Advocacy Center of Michigan

Established in 1975



“Only the educated are free”
Epictetus

www.StudentAdvocacyCenter.org

What is the Student Advocacy Center?

The Student Advocacy Center is the only independent organization in Michigan, providing FREE, non-legal advocacy to students (and their parents) who are eligible for general and special public education programs. The Center was founded in 1975 by a group of citizens who recognized that too many children were not receiving good public school education.

Advocates work towards assuring equal and excellent education for all children by developing strategies to redress grievances including administrative, legislative, and judicial remedies. The Center also provides direct services to our most vulnerable community members by accompanying them to school meetings and helping them locate community resources, such as food, housing, and mental health services.

Mission Statement

The Student Advocacy Center of Michigan operates with the conviction that a vigorous public school system, which serves all children well, is an essential component of a robust democracy. Toward that end, the Student Advocacy Center advocates on behalf of, and in participation with, Michigan's school age children and their families, in order to ensure that those who are educationally unserved, underserved, or ill-served receive a free, individualized, and equitable public education and become fully participating members of their community.

What We Do

The Student Advocacy Program provides free non-legal services to low-income parents and caregivers of children seeking to obtain appropriate educational services for their children. Parents and caregivers are often not adequately informed of their rights, and may not be able to read or understand the numerous documents they are asked to review and provide informed consent to. When disputes arise concerning an educational issue and disciplinary action, parents and caregivers often feel helpless. Trained educational advocates are available to give advice and "next step" directives to questions parents and care givers have regarding student rights in Michigan public schools.

Advocacy Program for Court Involved Youth

The Student Advocacy Program for Court Involved Youth provides a comprehensive, coordinated approach to supporting the educational goals of students in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. Children who have been abused or neglected are referred to our Center by the local Department of Human Services to help with school enrollment, placement and special education issues. Youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system are referred by their case worker or attorney to facilitate the reintegration back into their community school.

The Family Advocacy Program

The Family Advocacy Program streams funding sources that may be used for developing, operating, expanding, and enhancing networks of community-based, prevention-focused, family resource and support programs that:

1. Prevent child abuse and neglect;
2. Decrease the risk of homelessness;
3. Provide educational advocacy services.

Educational Policy Program

The Student Advocacy Center of Michigan upholds the principle that sound public education policy requires: Equal access by all children to educational programs which develop their full human potential. Significant agency resources are committed towards the effort of long term systemic change to ensure that state policies serve children well for the benefit of the entire school population and society. Towards this goal the Center has created a state wide collation, All Kids in School! (AKS) with other state organizations that fight against discrimination and inequality. Our current focus is challenging Zero Tolerance policies that push our most vulnerable children onto the streets with no hope for a future. *Together with families, and partner advocates, we strive to reinstate the commitment to universal public education.*