

The Student Advocacy Center was established in 1975 to focus on students' in-school experiences, identify policies and practices that work — and those that don't work — and help eliminate barriers to effective services. Michigan's only organization advocating on behalf of public school students in general and special education programs, the Student Advocacy Center serves children having difficulties accessing needed educational services, explores the effects of their circumstances and offers information about possible remedies to policy makers, educators and the public. Using a strength-based approach, the center works in partnership with parents to encourage and promote school policies and practices that work for children and challenge those that, however well intentioned, have a hurtful impact.

The Family Advocacy Program

A strategic approach to support families with limited resources.



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Families today face multiple problems and often need help putting the pieces together. A family advocate can help in the following ways:

- Talk to parents and children and provide advice regarding specific problems
- Help parents set up daycare and preschool programs, like HeadStart
- Advocate for children in school to make sure they are getting the help they need
- Help families connect with free resources
- Work with DHS to apply for assistance
- Provide tips and support around parenting (think Nanny 911)
- Help with rides to appointments, grocery shopping, and other errands
- Help parents and teenagers talk problems out and reach a solution (think Dr. Phil)

How It Works:

- An experienced family therapist, who has helped hundreds of families just like yours, will call you to set up an appointment in your home.
- Together, you will decide how this program can help you (goals) and how we will know our job is over. An example might be, "I need help making my 14 year old listen to me without yelling and fighting." The advocate's job is over when you and your adolescent can negotiate without raising

your voices and he/she is making it to school every day and coming home by curfew.

- Once your family's "plan" is finished (no two family plans are the same), another team person will come aboard to help you make it work. They will be with you and/or your children at least once a week to help out.
- Your advocate **works for you** and will stand up for your family wherever you need support (think Rocky!).
- All we ask from you is that you trust us enough to try us out. If, at any time, you decide we're not helping - you can stop participating.

We know 3 things about you:

- Nobody knows your family better than you.
- You are doing the very best you can with what you have.
- You want to stay as far away from social workers as you can get.

We need you to know 3 things about us:

- We won't judge you.
- We will work hard for you.
- We will protect your privacy.

To request additional information, please contact:

The Student Advocacy Center of Michigan
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