



## **Help Guides for Children with Behavior and Learning Challenges**

### **What are these guides? Who are they for?**

These Help Guides are for parents and caregivers. They may also be helpful for teachers, advocates, and others concerned about school children with behavior or learning challenges. These children may have trouble following school rules and controlling strong feelings at school. They may have trouble learning what the school teaches.

Sometimes these troubles are caused by mental health issues, disabilities, trauma, or language challenges. Children with these challenges will succeed in school with the right help. These guides have information about how you can find that help at public schools and in your community.

### **How do I use these guides?**

The guides work as a single document or as separate information sheets. You can read the guides together as a single document. Or you can use the table of contents to find the topics that interest you.

We want you to share the information in these guides. If you use the information in these guides to create your own document to share with others, please give us credit in your document. We want people to know that they can come to Georgia Appleseed for more information and help.

### **Can I help you improve the guides?**

Yes! We hope that you will help us improve these guides. We wrote these guides as introductions to the topics. We wrote them to be easy to read and understand. But we left out some information to keep the guides short and simple.

Let us know if you think that we should add information. Also tell us about other ways that we can improve these guides. Please send any suggestions that you have to Michael Waller at [mwall@gaappleseed.org](mailto:mwall@gaappleseed.org) or Terrence Wilson at [twilson@gaappleseed.org](mailto:twilson@gaappleseed.org).



## Who created these guides?

The Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, [GaAppleseed.org](http://GaAppleseed.org), and its Young Professionals Council created these guides with help from our partners.

Georgia Appleseed's mission is to increase justice in Georgia through law and policy reform and community engagement. As part of our work to keep kids in school, we advocate for improving school climate and improving systems of care for children with mental illness, autism, and other intense needs. Georgia Appleseed is the lead organization for the Georgia Education Climate Coalition (GECC), a public-private partnership that is comprised of state agencies, advocacy groups/nonprofits, educators, centers, schools, and districts championing statewide improvement to school climate.

These guides were created by attorneys at Georgia Appleseed with a combined 25 years of experience in public interest law. Pro bono research and interviews of stakeholders and experts were done by the following law firms to support each of the guides:

Alston & Bird LLP

Polsinelli PC

Nelson Mullins LLP

Support for these guides was also provided by a School-Based Behavioral Health collaborative partnership between The Carter Center Mental Health Program, Voices for Georgia's Children, and Georgia Appleseed. A full list of supporters of this collaboration can be found at <http://bit.ly/SBBHsupporters>. We are also grateful for support from The Rich Foundation, Inc. and Ivy & Roses Community Fund, Inc., which also made these guides possible.

*Volume 1.2 (August 2019)*