

FACING A SCHOOL DISCIPLINE CHALLENGE?

Has your child been suspended from school? **Georgia Appleseed can help.**

Parents and their children facing school discipline challenges, specifically long-term suspension or expulsion, can seek advocacy support through the nonprofit **Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice**. Through our FAIR (Fairness, Advocacy and Individualized Representation) Project, we provide free one-on-one coaching and resources so that you can advocate confidently for your child's right to an education during school discipline proceedings. In some cases, we may also connect you with an attorney who can represent your child at no charge.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are rights and protections for your child facing long-term suspension.

Under Georgia's school discipline code, students facing a suspension of more than 10 days have the right to a *school discipline hearing (or tribunal)* to determine if a school's code of conduct was violated and what the appropriate punishment should be.

Students with disabilities have specific protections.

For children with disabilities, a 504-plan, IEP, or suspected disabilities with a request for evaluation, the school is required to have a *manifestation determination meeting* to assess whether the behavior in question is substantially related to the student's disability. This ensures that students aren't unfairly penalized for behaviors connected to their disabilities.

Georgia's discipline code requires due process.

Georgia mandates that all students be given an opportunity to understand and respond to allegations made against them. Parents and guardians are encouraged to participate in the process and have access to resources, including the right to appeal tribunal decisions. If the school asks, do not sign a waiver prior to getting additional support or advice.

Georgia Appleseed's FAIR Project can help you and your child.

FAIR offers over the phone consultation, informational materials, training, and – under certain circumstances – direct legal representation for at-risk children. These resources can help you prepare for and understand your child's school disciplinary process.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

To get help, visit www.DisciplineHelp.org or scan the QR code and complete our referral form. (Eligibility requirements apply.) For online resources, visit www.TribunalHelp.org.

LEARN MORE



**You need to get your child back to school.
Every day matters, so contact us today.**



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