

**THE PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

2009-2010 STATEMENT OF GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The Legal Center has identified the following goals and objectives that it believes are of greater importance or of more immediate concern in Colorado. Thus, these activities, or areas of emphasis, take precedence over, and receive greater weight than other areas in terms of case selection and services, allocation of resources, systems advocacy and other program activities. All services are subject to available resources.

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

GOAL 1: The Legal Center will assist students with developmental disabilities to ensure that the students are receiving educational services in the least restrictive educational (LRE) environment appropriate to their individual needs.

Objectives:

- a. The Legal Center will consider representation and/or advocacy on behalf of students with developmental disabilities in special education or 504 programs where a student receives educational services in homebound, day or residential programs or center-based programs and desires a significantly more integrated setting.

GOAL 2: The Legal Center will assist students with developmental disabilities to ensure that Colorado public schools implement lawful disciplinary processes.

- a. The Legal Center will consider representation and/or advocacy on behalf of students with developmental disabilities in special education or 504 programs where it appears that the disciplinary process required by section 504 and the IDEA has not been implemented. The Legal Center will consider representation in cases with significant due process concerns that may preclude the student from returning to school.

GOAL 3: The Legal Center staff will participate in training, outreach and committee work to increase awareness of the legal rights of students with disabilities.

- a. The Legal Center will engage in outreach activities and training with surrogate and foster care parents, parent support groups and social service and human service organizations in each of the priority areas.
- b. The Legal Center will participate in select, statewide committee(s)/task force(s) that are relevant to the Legal Center's activities.

GOAL 4: The Legal Center staff will advocate for system change in cases of restraint and seclusion.

- a. The Legal Center will advocate for change that includes insertion of enforcement mechanisms into applicable statutes, rules and/or policies.
- b. The Legal Center will conduct investigations under its Protection and Advocacy authority in instances of restraint and seclusion not older than one year, involving multiple incidents, evidence of a pattern and/or practice and where there is probable cause for such investigation.

GOAL 5: The Legal Center will provide Intake and Technical Assistance to constituents of The Legal Center.

- a. The Legal Center will provide Intake and Technical Assistance to parents of students with disabilities to assist with resolution techniques and self advocacy.