

# LEGAL AID OF WV FAST PROGRAM



The FAST Program (an acronym for Family, Advocacy, Support, and Training) was developed as part of Legal Aid of WV's Behavioral Health Advocacy unit after identifying a significant need for children's advocacy. The program engages families in the planning, management and evaluation of their child's education. FAST has five regional advocates, a statewide family resource specialist, and a program attorney serving all 55 West Virginia counties.

FAST Advocates can provide a diverse set of services, including:

- Working with families and school officials to develop individual education plans (IEPs).
- Facilitating discussions between schools and families about how to manage a child's problem behaviors in a way that is fair and designed to keep the child in public school.
- Providing linkage and referrals to appropriate services.
- Assisting with transitions between schools and school districts.
- Identifying supports to prevent dropout, truancy, and disciplinary actions, and to encourage postsecondary education.
- Helping resolve legal concerns that directly impact a child's academic success, including problems with accessing appropriate education services, issues of custody and adoption, and acquisition of benefits, transportation, and housing.

To apply for help from FAST, call Legal Aid of WV at **866-255-4370**, or apply online at **lawv.net**.

