

# 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. FAST engages families in the planning, management and evaluation of their child's education with five regional advocates, a statewide family resource specialist, and a program attorney serving all 55 West Virginia counties. FAST is funded by the Bureau for Behavioral Health and SAMHSA.

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

- Working with families and school officials to develop individual education plans (IEPs) and Section 504 plans.
- Facilitating discussions between schools and families about how to manage a child's challenging behaviors in a way that is fair and designed to keep the child in public school.
- Providing linkage and referrals to appropriate services.
- Working with families and school officials to ensure that a child is not being discriminated against based on their disability.
- 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 difficulties 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**.

