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### Children with Special Needs, need Parents with Special Skills!

# Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc.

The Parent Training and Information Center for the District of Columbia

## **Fact Sheet**

**Mission**: The mission of Advocates for Justice and Education (AJE) is to educate parents, youth and the community about the laws governing public education, specifically for children with special needs. It is our mission to make the public aware of the consequences of institutional negligence of children with or without disabilities and to promote school accountability.

#### Children with Special Needs need Parents with Special Skills!

**Core Programs:** A.J.E. works with three populations of parents and their children: Students Eligible for Early Intervention Services (0-3), School Aged Students (4-12) and Transition Aged Students (13-26). Services are rendered through direct services, training, community education and empowerment.

- **Parent to Parent:** Our parent to parent Program provides parents with leadership training and a supportive network of peers.
- **Resource and Information Center:** The Resource and Information Center is a comprehensive resource library and training center. The Center offers parents information on the laws of special education, specific disabilities, the latest research on treatment and interventions, and adaptive technology.
- **Transition Advocacy Project:** The Transition Advocacy Project provides youth ages 13-26 with support, advocacy, information and training in order to improve their involvement in their educational planning.
- Direct Services/Individual Advocacy: A.J.E. provides direct services to parents
  in the form of free individual representation in situations when the intervention of
  third party is necessary to ensure that appropriate services are being made available
  to a family in need. We do not accept or bill parents or the public schools for our
  services to families.
- **Community Education:** We provide community education through our workshops and seminars which are free to the families we serve. In addition, it is important that community-based organizations serving children, youth and families understand the obligations of the public school.
- DC Family-to-Family Health Information Center (DCHIC): The DCHIC provides support, information, resources, and training to families of children and youth with special health care needs and the professionals that serve them. The DCPIN provides family navigation and care coordination services to help families navigate the maze of health care services and programs for children with special healthcare needs.