

**“WHEN YOUR CHILD  
NEEDS ADVOCACY, MAC  
IS ALWAYS THERE TO HELP.”**

DOUG FLUTIE, PRESIDENT AND COFOUNDER  
OF THE DOUG FLUTIE JR. FOUNDATION  
FOR AUTISM, INC.



## OTHER AUTISM RESOURCES

*Asperger's Association of  
New England*  
617-393-3824

*Autism Alliance of  
Metrowest*  
508-652-9900

*Autism Center of the  
South Shore*  
800-482-5788

*Autism Resource  
Center of Central MA*  
508-835-4278

*Autism Society of  
America— MA Chapter*  
781-237-0272

*Autism Support Center*  
978-777-9135

*Community Autism  
Resources, Inc.*  
508-379-0371 or  
800-588-9239 (toll calls)

*Community Resources  
for People with Autism*  
413-529-2428

*Family Autism Center*  
781-762-4001 x329

*TILL/BFA*  
781-302-4835

*Arc Massachusetts*  
781-891-6270

*The Federation for  
Children with Special  
Needs*  
800-331-0688

*LADDERS/MGH*  
781-449-6074

*MASSPAC  
(to find your local Parent  
Advisory Council)*  
www.masspac.org

*The Doug Flutie Jr.  
Foundation For  
Autism Inc.*  
1-866-3AUTISM

Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC), formerly Massachusetts Advocacy Center, is a private non-profit organization dedicated to improving educational and life opportunities for children throughout the commonwealth. For over 30 years MAC has responded to the needs of children who are vulnerable because of race, poverty, limited English, or disabilities.

Massachusetts Advocates for Children  
25 Kingston St. 2nd Floor  
Boston, MA 02111  
www.massadvocates.org



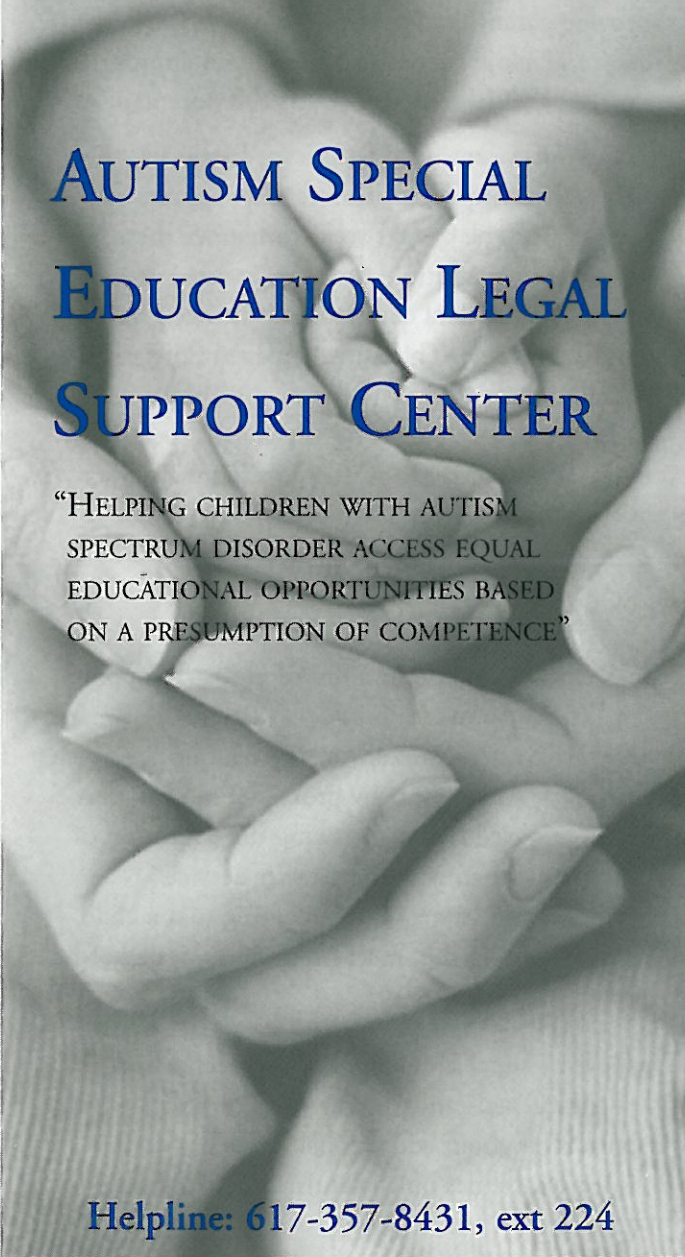
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MASSACHUSETTS  
ADVOCATES  
for CHILDREN

# AUTISM SPECIAL EDUCATION LEGAL SUPPORT CENTER

“HELPING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM  
SPECTRUM DISORDER ACCESS EQUAL  
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BASED  
ON A PRESUMPTION OF COMPETENCE”



**Helpline: 617-357-8431, ext 224**

## WHAT IS THE AUTISM SPECIAL EDUCATION LEGAL SUPPORT CENTER?

The Autism Special Education Legal Support Center was created to implement comprehensive training and advocacy strategies to provide parents and professionals with the knowledge and supports necessary to obtain appropriate programs which reflect a child's full potential.

Too often parents face significant barriers as they try to obtain essential services and supports for their child. The Center seeks to remove these barriers using multiple strategies focused on the needs of individual children and the need for systemic change. The Autism Special Education Legal Support Center addresses the unique educational needs of children on the autism spectrum by informing parents of their educational rights and options.

## WHAT WE PROVIDE

The Autism Special Education Legal Support Center provides support to parents of children with autism, advocates, educators, service providers, and lawyers by providing information about the legal rights governing the education of children with autism, the array of services available, and strategies for ensuring that a child receives services that meet his or her unique needs.

The Center provides:

- **Autism Legal Helpline:** Callers receive free technical assistance and answers to their questions about educational rights of children with disabilities on the autism spectrum.



- **Advocacy Services:** Callers who need assistance for their child receive free technical assistance, advocacy assistance, and/or referral to a private or pro bono attorney. The Center also provides free legal advocacy for a limited number of cases.
- **Free Community Workshops on Autism:** The Center provides workshops for parents, educators, lawyers, and medical professionals to address new legal requirements and effective strategies to secure the full range of educational services necessary for children on the autism spectrum. These workshops focus on legal rights and procedures, MCAS, literacy, behavioral and social supports, and access to the general curriculum.
- **Legislative & Policy Advocacy:** The Center addresses system-wide barriers affecting children with autism. Successful advocacy efforts include:
  - Children's Autism Medicaid Waiver
  - Autism IEP Bill

## EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF CHILDREN ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

The IEP must specify all of the special education programs and services necessary for children on the autism spectrum to reach their full potential. For instance:

- School districts must provide high quality special education programs and services which meet all your child's unique needs.
- Your child is entitled to special education services necessary to learn the material covered by MCAS.

## IEP OPTIONS

Has your child's IEP Team considered all the options? Some IEPs for children with autism might include:

- ABA
- Home programs
- Summer programs
- Floor time
- Sensory integration
- Assistive technology
- Socialization supports
- Behavioral supports
- Augmentative communication: i.e., PECS, facilitated communication
- Specialized speech & language therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Vocational supports
- Life skills training
- Classroom aides
- Transition services
- Other services to meet your child's unique needs



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25 Kingston Street, 2nd Floor  
Boston, MA 02111  
617-357-8431

Ext. 234 for information/workshops  
Ext. 224 for help with your child

[www.massadvocates.org](http://www.massadvocates.org)