



Free Educational Services for NYC DOE Students

The Problem & Opportunity for Families

Many DOE students — especially in District 75 — are not getting a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Most parents do not know they can file a Due Process Complaint (DPC) and obtain an Impartial Hearing Order (IHO) requiring the DOE to fund private services at no cost. Families mistakenly believe they can only work with non-profit legal organizations when private attorneys often have more availability, offer the same service and use the same fee-shifting model.

MPG is here to make this connection!



Who is Manhattan Psychology Group (MPG)

MPG is a multidisciplinary mental health and ABA practice that, since 2016, has been collaborating with special education attorneys to help DOE families secure free, life-changing IHO-funded services.

Our vision is to create a future where individuals and their families feel supported, connected and empowered.

How does the DPC process work?

1. If you suspect the student is not making educational progress, refer them to MPG.
2. MPG will assess their situation and may introduce them to a trusted attorney.
3. The attorney will review the case and decide to represent the student. There are no guarantees that every student will receive representation. In this case, MPG will try to help the parents find alternative solutions.

What types of Free Services are Available to DOE Students?

When students win an IHO, MPG can provide a host of life-changing services for free, in the home, at school or the office, such as: 1:1 ABA therapy, neuropsychological testing, counseling, social-skills groups, FBA/BIPs, parent training and special education tutoring. Students are also eligible for a new school placement and transportation.

***MPG can coordinate Speech, PT & OT at other agencies.**

What type of DOE students are eligible and should be referred to MPG for attorney coordination?

Any DOE student ages 4+ with an IEP who has Autism or significant disabilities; at an inappropriate placement (e.g., D75, 12:1:1); making minimal progress; missing related services; and/or, with no outside support.

What can families expect, including timelines and costs?

Parents will need to gather reports, prepare for hearings, and sign documents. These attorneys are pro-bono or fee-shifting (i.e., they collect fees from the DOE when they win the case) so there is little-to-no cost to the family for the legal work. Services provided by MPG or any other agency are completely free and do not affect any other city/state financial subsidy. The DPC process could take 9 months, so it is better to start ASAP. However, if the student wins their case, they could receive services until age 21.

What is the referral process for agencies and parents?

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