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The NC Justice Center is the state's leading research and policy advocacy organization **dedicated to securing opportunity and prosperity for all.**

The Justice Center uses four integrated strategies – **litigation, research, policy advocacy, and community education** – to ensure that all people in North Carolina have the resources and services they need to take part in the state's growing prosperity.

For more information on state education policy and the Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Fund, contact:

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Personal Education Plans

How PEPs can help struggling students achieve academic success

In an effort to ensure that all children get a quality education, North Carolina administers End-of-Grade (EOG) and End-of-Course (EOC) tests. These tests are designed to determine if each student has learned what he needs to know to move to the next grade. They also help identify students who need extra attention.

Under North Carolina law, any child who does not meet grade-level proficiency (scores a Level I or Level II on EOG or EOC tests) is eligible for a Personal Education Plan (PEP). PEPs aid parents, teachers, and administrators in planning out the special interventions a student needs. These interventions can include, but are not limited to, smaller classes, tutorial sessions, extended school day, and alternative learning models.

Who is Eligible for a Personal Education Plan?

Children performing below grade level have a right to a Personal Education Plan.

North Carolina law states:

At the beginning of the school year, a personal education plan for academic improvement with focused intervention and performance benchmarks shall be developed for any student not performing at least at grade level, as identified by the State end-of-grade test.

The State Board of Education Policy Manual adds:

School districts shall provide focused intervention to all students who do not meet statewide student accountability standards. This intervention shall involve extended instructional opportunities that are different and supplemental and that are specifically designed to improve these students' performance to grade level proficiency.

How to Get a PEP

If a child scores a I or II on his end-of-grade tests, his parents should call the principal and say they want a PEP for their child. Schools must develop and follow these plans in accordance with North Carolina law and the state constitution.

In addition, parents should be involved in the development of the PEP and should get a copy of the final document. Parents should work with their child's teachers to determine how the PEP is implemented.

If a parent has difficulty getting a PEP for an eligible child, he should call his local Legal Aid of NC office (www.legalaidnc.org).

Note: A PEP is different from an IEP (Individual Education Plan). IEPs are only for children who require Special Education services.