



***For Immediate Release***

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**Contact**

Christine Smith

Director of Community Initiatives and  
Outreach

[csmith@lacsnsn.org](mailto:csmith@lacsnsn.org)

(702) 386-1424

**LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA  
CHALLENGES CCSD'S SYSTEMIC DENIAL OF THE RIGHT TO READ  
FOR DYSLLEXIC STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE IN MASS DUE PROCESS FILING**

**Las Vegas, NV** – Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada filed more than 20 special education due process complaints on Thursday against the Clark County School District (CCSD) on behalf of students tied to the foster care system, all of whom have been denied access to basic literacy instruction. This mass filing coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a federal mandate to ensure disabled children get a free appropriate public education in American schools.

That mandate remains an illusion for struggling readers in CCSD.

The students at the center of these complaints have been identified by CCSD as in need of special education services due to a Specific Learning Disability with deficits in reading, more commonly known as Dyslexia.

These students range from 2nd to 12th grade, and have been promoted through CCSD without learning to proficiently read. Among them are an eleventh grader who cannot spell words like “hot” and “pet” yet receives zero minutes of direct reading instruction, and a fifth grader who told his teacher every day, “I can’t read,” and performs at a pre-kindergarten level without any specialized intervention.

A decade ago, the Nevada Legislature passed a sweeping law to protect students with Dyslexia and ensure they receive the tools they need to learn to read, further enhancing IDEA protections. CCSD has ignored this law. Instead, for years, CCSD has failed these students with devastating consequences.

These cases reveal a crisis far beyond any individual child. CCSD, the nation’s fifth largest school district, has repeatedly advanced some of Nevada’s most vulnerable students without ensuring they can read

basic words. These are not isolated errors. They are recurring patterns across schools, grades, case managers, school psychologists, and IEP teams, reflecting a systemic failure to identify, evaluate, and teach children with Dyslexia despite clear legal mandates and years of notice.

Legal Aid Center represents over 3,400 children in foster care. In September 2025, after reviewing the special education plans of children in care, Legal Aid Center sent a demand letter to CCSD, warning of widespread violations of federal and state law and urging the district to adopt an intensive, appropriate literacy program for all students with Dyslexia. Legal Aid Center reminded CCSD that, just four years earlier, it had been ordered to pay more than \$500,000 in compensatory education for failing another student with Dyslexia—more than the cost of the proposed systemic reforms. CCSD did not respond.

**“These children sat in CCSD classrooms for years without being able to read even the simplest words, and the district should have seen it. We should not have students in middle and high school unable to read *The Cat in the Hat*. These are not isolated failures. They are systemic, repeated, predictable patterns—and they have devastated children who already carry more trauma than most adults will ever experience.” – Janice Wolf, Directing Attorney, Children’s Attorneys Project, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Inc.**

**Fifty years after the passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), foster children with disabilities in Clark County still do not have access to the basic instruction the law promised them. These children deserved better from all of us. Literacy is not a luxury. It is the foundation for every other opportunity in life. We cannot undo what these children lost, but we can demand that CCSD finally give them what they have been denied all along: the chance to learn to read.” – Marina Dalia-Hunt, Team Chief, Education Advocacy Program, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Inc.**

Legal Aid Center calls on CCSD to immediately implement a districtwide evidence-based Dyslexia intervention program delivered by trained specialists, provide intensive compensatory education to all affected students, and work with families, advocates, and state leaders to restore the promise of the IDEA. On the 50th anniversary of this landmark law, no child in foster care should leave CCSD unable to read.

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## **About Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada**

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada is a non-profit law firm dedicated to providing direct legal representation, counsel, advice, and community legal education to those who cannot afford an attorney. Legal assistance is available to victims of domestic violence and other violent crimes, victims of consumer fraud, and children in the foster care system. For legal assistance, please call (702) 386-1070.

## **About Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada’s Special Education Advocacy Program**

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada’s Special Education Advocacy Program provides advice, training, advocacy, and legal representation in special education to children in foster care,

parents, guardians, relatives, and Volunteer Education Advocates. To learn more about the services we provide call 702-386-1070 option 6 or an email to [speciald@lacs.n.org](mailto:speciald@lacs.n.org).