



*Please join the Dignity in Schools Campaign  
for a special three part teleconference series on*

## ***How Students With Disabilities Are Being Pushed Out of School***

***Call #1: The Impact of and Solutions to Schools' Failure to Appropriately  
Address Disability-Related Behavior***

**December 18, 2008**

11:30 am PST, 12:30 pm MST, 1:30 pm CST, 2:30 pm EST  
90 minutes

***RSVP to [lturner@aclu-il.org](mailto:lturner@aclu-il.org) for call-in information***

This first call will identify problems students with disabilities experience when their schools fail to appropriately address behavioral issues arising from their disabilities. Speakers will discuss how schools' failure to serve students' behavioral needs leads to students being pushed out of school. We will address how schools can better serve the needs of students and their families and share creative strategies for advocates.

**Presenters** (bios forthcoming):

- **Matthew Engel**, *Senior Staff Attorney*, Disability Law Center of Massachusetts
- **Ron Lospennato**, *Director*, Southern Poverty Law Center School to Prison Reform Project
- **Jacki Anderson**, *Professor of Special Education*, California State University, East Bay
- **Lucille Eber**, *State Director*, Illinois Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports Network

**Key Questions for Discussion:**

- What kinds of disability-related behavioral problems are kids having in school?
- What are schools around the country doing – or not doing – to serve kids with disability-related behavior problems?
- How does schools' failure to appropriately address student behavior lead to the pushout of students with disabilities?
- What can advocates do to empower students and their families to ask for and receive better services to address behavior issues?
- What strategies or solutions have worked to help ensure schools better serve students with disability-related behavior problems?



**Share your experiences!**

We ask that everyone on the conference call share their experiences with disability-related issues that impact pushout in schools in their own cities or regions. This call will be action-oriented and we hope to include a variety of perspectives and ideas in the final discussion. Please plan to share your thoughts and experiences!

*We are pleased to announce our four speakers for this national conference call:*

**Matthew Engel**, *Senior Staff Attorney*, Disability Law Center of Massachusetts

Matthew Engel is a Senior Attorney with the Disability Law Center in Northampton, MA where he has worked for the past 22 years. The majority of his practice focuses on the rights of children with disabilities, with an emphasis on school discipline issues. He is also a frequent presenter at conferences and workshops on education law.

**Ron Lospennato**, *Director*, Southern Poverty Law Center School to Prison Reform Project

Ronald Lospennato is an attorney with and directs Southern Poverty Law Center's School to Prison Reform Project in New Orleans. The project's goal is to develop and implement strategies as a nationwide model to address the educational needs of youth caught up in the school to prison pipeline and to permit them to be integrated in the mainstream of American life. Mr. Lospennato was the Legal Director of the Disabilities Rights Center, Inc., New Hampshire's Protection and Advocacy program, from 1979 to 2007.

**Jacki Anderson**, *Professor of Special Education*, California State University, East Bay

Jacki L. Anderson Ph.D. is a professor of Special Education in the Department of Educational Psychology at California State University, East Bay and Coordinator of its credential and masters degree programs in the area of serving individuals with moderate/severe disabilities with a program focus on effective and innovative educational practices, particularly in the areas of **Inclusive Education, Effective Instruction and Positive Behavioral Support**. Dr. Anderson has administrated a number of training, research and systems change projects in these areas, including serving as Training Coordinator for the Rehabilitation, Research and Training Center on Positive Behavioral Support, a six University consortium dedicated to developing and disseminating practical technologies for supporting individuals with behavioral challenges in inclusive school, work and community environments. Over the 15 years of this project, Dr. Anderson coordinated the development of a comprehensive inservice training model to establish interagency state level training teams. As a result, a network of 26 State teams were developed to work collaboratively to provide training and technical assistance to assist local communities in building the capacity to provide effective behavioral supports in inclusive settings. Six years after the end of the project a large % of the teams continue to operate using the Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) and/or the national PBIS technical assistance center to promote networking activities. Dr. Anderson is actively involved in a variety of local, state and national organizations and policy making committees.

**Lucille Eber**, *State Director*, Illinois Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports Network

Lucille Eber, Ed.D., is the State Director of the Illinois Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Network, sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education. This Network coordinates technical assistance and evaluation related to school-wide PBIS in over 800 IL schools and includes implementation of wraparound and interagency initiatives for students with complex emotional and behavioral challenges. As a collaborative partner with the U.S. Department of Education's National PBIS Center, Dr. Eber also facilitates PBIS implementation and training plans for states and school districts across the country. Formerly the Deputy Director of La Grange Area Department of Special Education (LADSE), Dr. Eber directed LADSE's Project WRAP (1990-1996), which led to LADSE restructuring Special Education services for students with Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities (EBD) into the wraparound-based EBD Network. Dr. Eber is a former board member of both the Illinois Federation of Families (IFF), and the national Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (FFCCMH). She is a current board member of the Association for Positive Behavior Supports (APBS).

*National Conference Call Series Sponsored By  
The ABA Children's Rights Litigation Committee  
& Dignity in Schools Campaign*

*Working together to ensure that children are treated with dignity and fairness in schools*