



YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ATTEND SCHOOL UNTIL YOU ARE 21 IT'S THE LAW!

- Have you been told to leave school (“discharged”)?
- Did your school tell you that you must go to a GED program?
- Were you told that you were too old to stay in school?
- Were you told you don’t have enough credits to stay in school?

If so, this may have been illegal under New York State Law. Read on:

*New York State Education Law Section 3202 gives **ALL** young people the right to stay in school until either:



- They are 21 years old OR
- They receive a high school diploma

*No one under the age of 17 can be discharged from school (with one minor exception)

- You may be voluntarily discharged from school **only** if:
 - o You have finished the school year in which you turned 17 AND you have agreed to the discharge process (Chancellor’s Regulation 240)
- You may be involuntarily discharged from school **only** if:
 - o You are 17 years old and missed 20 consecutive days of school OR
 - o You have completed the school year in which you turned 21 (Reg 240)



If you want to go back to school and:

- o You are under 21 years old AND
- o Have not received a high school diploma:

The New York City school system **MUST** accept you, no matter the circumstances of your discharge.

If you ever received **Special Education Services** or **medication in school** (for example: resource room, speech)

- o You have the right to remain in school and get school services until you are 21. Two federal laws, called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (**IDEA**) and **Section 504** of the Rehabilitation Act give you many rights to receive school services.
- o You may have the right to attend a different school, be in a different grade, get reading and math help, vocational training, or other services under these laws.

IF YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP YOU!

If you believe that you may have been illegally discharged from school, would like to discuss your case further, or would like more information about discharge rights, please call Advocates for Children at the:

Toll-Free Education Hotline—1-866-427-6033

Monday–Thursday 10am–4pm

