

Fulton County Juvenile Court

Education advocate aids special needs youth

By Associate Judge Juliette Scales



The Educational Advocacy Initiative is a vital component of the Fulton County Juvenile Court's service and commitment to the citizens of Fulton County.

Research indicates that 33% of youth detained in juvenile correction facilities are being served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The total number of youth with disabilities may rise to 60 percent across the nation (*Quinn, Rutherford, Leone, Osher & Poirier, In Press*).

The failure to provide appropriate educational resources for special needs students is a likely precursor to truancy, disruptive class-

room behavior and even delinquent behavior.

The Fulton County Juvenile Court has responded to this critical need through the Educational Advocacy Initiative.

The initiative provides for a Court Education Advocate whose responsibilities include assisting youth with special education needs. The Education Advocate partners with families, school systems, probation officers, counselors, attorneys, and child advocates. By working collectively with these professionals, the Education Advocate can help ensure better educational outcomes for youth with disabilities who are involved in the juvenile justice system.

The Educational Advocacy Initiative helps young people meet with increased levels of success and benefits the entire community.



Fulton County Juvenile Court Judges

Chief Judge Sanford J. Jones

Judge Belinda E. Edwards

Chief Associate Judge
Charles G. Hodges

Associate Judge George Blau

Associate Judge Sharon Hill

Associate Judge Juliette Scales

Chief Administrative Officer

Michael N. Wilson

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