

# EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY

## Three State Examples

### MISSOURI

**Approach:**

Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, an agency contracted by the Missouri Department of Social Services, uses a trauma-informed educational advocacy approach focused on school enrollment, individualized education plan (IEP) development and implementation, protection of student rights, and compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act, while empowering parents to advocate for their child.

**Duration:**

Families may access services at anytime .

**Staff:**

The program is staffed by five educational advocates and one supervisor who provide specialized post-permanency educational support.

Educational advocacy is a specialized service that helps adoptive and guardianship families access appropriate school supports, address education-related challenges, strengthen self-advocacy, and increase schools' understanding of the needs of children impacted by trauma and loss.

### TENNESSEE

**Approach:**

Tennessee's ASAP/GSAP educational advocacy program provides adoption-competent, trauma-responsive support to help families navigate educational systems, protect students' rights, and address school-related challenges. The program combines direct family advocacy with education and training for schools and communities.

**Duration:**

Families may access educational advocacy services as needed while enrolled in ASAP/GSAP services.

**Staff:**

Educational advocacy staff have specialized training and lived experience as adoptive parents or guardians.



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ABOUT EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY!



### ILLINOIS

**Approach:**

Illinois' Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation (ASAP) Program partners with Greenlight Family Services to provide educational advocacy, supporting families with IEPs, Section 504 plans, BIPs, school meetings, transitions, and college readiness resources. Staff may attend school meetings, support transitions, and assist with college readiness, scholarships, and related services.

**Duration:**

Educational advocacy services are available as needed for families enrolled in the ASAP program.

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