

In this Issue:

- Spotting Education Problems
- Personal Learning Plans
- MPR interview - Flaws in Schools' Teaching of Reading
- Shout Out to ELAP's Collaborating Orgs



Spotting Education Problems

How can you know when to call or make a referral to a SMRLS' ELAP lawyer to get help for a child with an education issue?

There continues to be devastating and enduring impacts of the pandemic on students' learning, which have only widened the persistent achievement gap between white affluent students and minorities and families with low-incomes.

Consider the following questions for parents:

- Is your child struggling to attend school or skipping classes?
- Is your child being picked on (in-person or cyber)?
- Is your child able to read at their grade level?
- Is your child feeling sufficiently challenged in school?
- Is your child struggling to understand what is being taught?
- Do you have concerns about school transportation for your child?
- If your child has a special education plan, is it working for them?
- If your child is receiving English Language services, is your child making progress in the program?
- Does your high school student have a personal learning plan?
- Do you feel your child is being treated differently because of their race or disability?

For general inquiries regarding ELAP services, call: 651-291-2837. Families interested in ELAP's services should call the SMRLS Intake number: 1-877-696-6529, or sign up for a meeting online at www.smrls.org.

Personal Learning Plans

Preparing for Success After High School

Minnesota school districts **must** develop Personal Learning Plans for **all** students by 9th grade to prepare them for postsecondary education or employment. (MN Statute § 120B.125). For details visit: <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/ccs/plp/index.htm>

What is a Personal Learning Plan (PLP)?

A written plan that helps high school students to:

- 1) Complete a career and college ready curriculum, and
- 2) Develop work-related skills such as teamwork, creativity, communication, and a good work ethic.

Free downloadable factsheet at: <https://www.smrls.org/get-help/legal-services/education/>

Systemic Flaws in Schools to Reading Instruction

1 in 3 of Minnesota's 4th graders cannot read at their grade level, a trend that has been growing for years. ELAP assists families in getting the reading help they need in school.

This month, MPR aired an interview of the producer of a new podcast series, "**Sold a Story**", which links the widespread inability of students to read to a popular, yet deeply flawed teaching method that many schools have bought into and continue to use.

- **MPR Interview:** <https://www.mprnews.org/episode/2022/12/06/sold-a-story;>
- **Sold a Story Podcast:** <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/sold-a-story/id1649580473>

Thanks to ELAP's Collaborating Orgs

Shout out and thanks to these and other organizations for their collaboration with SMRLS' ELAP in 2022:

Proof Alliance ~ Multicultural Autism Action Network (MAAN) ~ United Way of Mankato
Model Cities ~ Red Wing CARE Clinic ~ Tri-Valley Opportunity Council (TVOC)
Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES) ~ 3rd Judicial Public Defenders
Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER)
Convivencia Hispana of St. James ~ Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County ~ MN de Hoy
Latino Youth Development Collaborative (LYDC) ~ Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL)
Ain Dah Yung Center ~ Mankato Lutheran Social Services "The Reach" ~ Indigenous Roots
Consulate of Mexico in Saint Paul ~ Keystone Community Services ~ Mankato Salvation Army
Solutions Not Suspensions ~ Ramsey County Public Libraries ~ Hmong Today
Fear None Conquer All (F.N.C.A) ~ MN Parent Union ~ Mankato Youth Place
Autism Society of MN (AUSM) ~ Family Voices of MN ~ Hiawatha Valley Mental Health
Council of African-Islamic Relations (CAIR - MN) ~ Southern Minnesota Counties ~ Hmong Times
Minnesota State University Diversity & inclusion Extension ~ Wilder Foundation
Minnesota Department of Health ~ Minnesota Department of Education ~ PACER