

# 5

chapter five

## Services in your child's school

Certain mental health services are available in Massachusetts public schools—and they are typically low-cost or free of charge and available regardless of insurance coverage.

As this chapter explains, your child's school will have a mental health care professional either on staff or on call. This health care provider is responsible for psychological testing in the school and may also provide some limited short-term mental health care. If your child has a disability or other special needs, he or she is also eligible for special education services in school. In addition, some children with disabilities are eligible for support services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This chapter summarizes these different services, discusses how to resolve disputes with the school, and also explains how your child might obtain services from a school-based health center.

Because your child spends so much time in school, the school's teachers and health care professionals are a valuable source of information and assistance. The mental health services provided in school are also crucial to your child's ability to learn.

And again, it is important for you to work closely with the school as an advocate on your child's behalf. The list of resources and organizations at the back of the Guide can help you be a better advocate and make the most of the school's services.

*Does my child's school provide mental health services?*

*How do I get them?*

**To request a copy of the How-To Guide,** contact [TheGuide@bostonbar.org](mailto:TheGuide@bostonbar.org) or 617-778-1934—or explore it online at [www.bostonbar.org/theguide](http://www.bostonbar.org/theguide).