

# What is a Family Engagement Advocate?

### FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

A Family Engagement Advocate is a caring community member who is trained and supervised by CASA of Adams and Broomfield Counties' staff to be an additional resource for families. CASA's Family Engagement Program is voluntary for you to utilize if you choose to participate. A Family Engagement Advocate will be assigned to you who will talk with you and your child to learn what your child is experiencing that is preventing them from going to school, and will problem solve with you to address the barriers, connect you with resources, and facilitate communication and advocate on behalf of your student with their school.

## A Family Engagement Advocate...

**does** talk to people who have information about your child, including parents, teachers, social workers, school psychologists, and school personnel, and will advocate on behalf of your student for needed school resources, accommodations, or support.

**does** get to know your child and may visit with them independently at home and at school

**does** get to know you and can identify and connect you with supportive services and community resources

**does** have access to your child's educational records and does attend meetings with you and the school

**does** listen to your thoughts and feeling about how things are going and can advocate for you and your student with their school

**does** work towards bringing a community of support around your child to help them reconnect with their school and peers

**does** respect that they work with your family at your discretion and that you may choose to end the working relationship at any time

**does not** choose sides in family disagreements

**does not** transport your child to school or appointments

**does not** drive family members to appointments

**does not** act like a parent or older sibling to your child

**does not** give legal advice or provide mental health care or advice

**does not** buy your child things or provide financial assistance to your child or family

**does not** share information about your child or family with anyone without a signed release of information



# What is a Family Engagement Advocate?

### FOR STUDENTS

A Family Engagement Advocate is a caring community member who is trained and supervised by CASA of Adams and Broomfield Counties' staff to support you and your family and help you to get back to school and reengaged with your teachers and school community. Your Family Engagement Advocate is there to listen to you and learn about what is going on at school and at home that makes it difficult to go to school. They are there to be your partner and to advocate on your behalf to make sure you have the resources and support you need to be successful at school so that you can have the kind of future you want as an adult.

## A Family Engagement Advocate...

**does** talk to people who might know about how you are doing. These people can be teachers, social workers, your parents, and others.

**does** get to know you and your family and will visit you at home and at school

**does** get copies of your educational records

**does** listen to your thoughts and feeling about how things are going and will advocate for you at school to ensure you receive the support or accommodations you need to be successful

**does** help you to make a plan to re-engage with your learning, school environment, and extracurricular activities

**does** respect you and your family, and recognizes that you get to choose how long you want to work with your volunteer

**does not** choose sides in family disagreements

**does not** buy you things or take you to their home

**does not** drive you or your family members to appointments

**does not** tell anyone other than your teachers and other school staff anything about you or your life