

Honorable Governor Cuomo  
Executive Chamber  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Email: [gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us](mailto:gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us)

Governor Cuomo:

As a parent of a child with special needs, I implore you to please recognize the challenges the State's special education provider community is facing. The preschool special education system responded to your call to open their doors and provide direct services in middle of the pandemic when no other sector did. So I know you understand the importance of these services!

Yet the non-public special education community's fiscal stability is threatened by lack of funding and an archaic reimbursement methodology. These essential providers can only continue their obvious commitment to our children with your support.

Please direct the immediate certification of the 2021-22 rate setting methodology for the preschool and school-age special education providers as proposed by the State Education Department. It is only through a trend factor commensurate with increases provided in state aid through the recently enacted State Budget that these critical programs can continue.

*As importantly, these programs must be allowed to retain and hold in reserve any and all federal relief funding received during 2020-21 and 2021-22. It is not enough to allow these programs to apply some of these vital funds towards their spiraling staffing costs and supplies expenses.*

I implore you to once again champion the cause of our most vulnerable children with special needs, by directing the fiscal relief proposed by the State Education Department.

Sincerely,