

**Albany County Department of Children Youth and Families**  
**Justification and Backup Material for Contractual Agreements between**  
**Albany County and Various School Districts to Provide**  
**Preschool Evaluation Services for Children with Special Needs**

The New York State Education Law (Section 4410) requires that the New York State Education Department (NYSED) meet the physical and educational needs of children with disabilities. NYSED administers, through local school districts, preschool special education programs and services for preschool students with disabilities, ages 3 to 5 years of age. The board of education or trustees of each School District required, by regulation (Part 200.2(a)), to identify and evaluate all students with disabilities who reside in the school district and establish a register of children who are entitled to attend public schools in the district or to attend a preschool program during the next school year. As of November of 2017, the law was amended to establish that all School Districts are approved evaluators of preschool students suspected of having a disability.

Municipalities are required to provide an approved preschool special education program for children who have been evaluated and determined by the school district to have a disabling condition. Albany County may contract with School Districts approved by NYSED as having an appropriate, structured program capable of offering Preschool Evaluations to children with disabilities. Reimbursement under these agreements shall be at the applicable rates established or approved by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). New York State reimburses Albany County 59.5% for costs incurred in the delivery of these services after backing out Medicaid reimbursement for the related services component of Center Based programs.

The Department for Children, Youth and Families respectfully request legislative authorization to enter into a contractual agreement with Albany County School Districts, contained on the attached list, to Provide Preschool Evaluation Services for Children with Special Needs for the term of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

School Districts

Albany City Schools	Middleburgh
Berne-Knox-Westerlo	Mohonasen
Bethlehem	Niskayuna
Cairo-Durham	North Colonie
Cohoes	Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk
Duanesburg	Schalmont
Gilboa - Conesville	Schoharie
Green Island	South Colonie
Greenville	Voorheesville
Guilderland	Watervliet
Menands	