

Department for Children, Youth and Families

Justification for Contract Authorization with the Albany County School Districts for Preschool Evaluation Services for Children with Special Needs

The Department respectfully request legislative authorization to enter into a contractual arrangement with the Albany County School Districts to provide Preschool Evaluations for Children with Special Needs. The Term of this agreement is July 01, 2026 to June 30, 2027. Reimbursement under this agreement shall be at the applicable rates established or approved by the New York State Education Department (NYSED)

Municipalities are required to provide an approved preschool special education program for children age three to five, who have been evaluated and determined by the school district to have a disabling condition. 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.

The New York State Education Law (Section 4410) requires that the 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 are required, by regulation (Part 200.2(a)), to identify 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.

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.

Albany County School Districts

Albany City	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	