

Department for Children, Youth and Families

Justification for Memorandums of Understanding Between Albany County and Various School Districts for the Reimbursement of Administrative Costs for the Provision of Preschool Special Education Services

The Department for Children, Youth and Families is seeking Legislative authorization to enter into Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with various public school districts for the Reimbursement of Administrative Costs, for preschool students with disabilities, who are eligible to receive preschool special education services, approved by the New York State Education Department.

The Department's Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) Program has been established, recognized and approved by the New York State Education Department. In cases where preschoolers with a disability residing within Albany County, receive Related Services only (Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy) and who are not affiliated with an approved center based preschool program, Albany County, as an approved provider of SEIT, can seek reimbursement from the public school district under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) sections 611 B and 619.

Funding for approved special education programs (ASEPs) vary from year to year and are based on the number of district students in Albany County. School districts are required to calculate and disburse funds in amounts equivalent to the federal allocation amounts attributed to student enrollment in ASEPs. Through the United States Department of Education, the Department anticipates approximately \$ \$109,572 over the course of the 2020-2021 school year.

In order to receive payment from school districts, Albany County's approved special education program is required to have signed and executed MOUs with school districts. Legislative authorization is required to enter into these MOUs given that school districts are considered intergovernmental agencies.