Kids Can't Wait Campaign Advocacy Letters

This fall, Governor Cuomo received 4,096 letters urging him to increase reimbursement rates for Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education in the 2020-21 state budget. 838 are email letters and 3,258 are paper letters that will be hand delivered to the Governor's office on Friday, December 20, 2019. This outstanding number of letters are a result of the efforts of Citizen’s Committee for Children, Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, The Children’s Agenda and its Interfaith Collaborative, and the Parents Helping Parents Coalition of Monroe County.

Get on the Bus!

We are heading to Albany on Tuesday, February 4th to meet with Legislators to urge them to support more affordable child care and increased funding for Developmental Services (Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education) in New York State. We want you to join us for this statewide day of action for young children.

We will be leaving on a coach bus (with restroom and wifi) from two locations, 1 in the city and 1 in the suburbs, at approximately 6am. We plan to return by
We've been busy! Check out our latest happenings.

approximately 7pm. **There is no cost: breakfast and lunch will be provided.**

For those of you who are unable to get on the bus, please feel free to meet us there.

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### Meet Collin

*Collin's Story, as told by Sabrina (family friend)*

Collin, my best friend's son, has autism and he received speech, physical therapy, and occupational therapy throughout his early years. His mother doesn't know what she would have done without early intervention. She loved the therapists that would come work with her son. Collin improved and thrived so much while he received services. Early intervention services helped their family immensely.

Collin's mom asked me to make a video to give to his therapists as a "thank you" that showed how much the therapy helped him. I included video clips and pictures from his life. I ended the whole video with a montage of all of the therapy he received.

[Click here](#) to see this touching video of a family’s thank you to their child’s therapist.

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### Parent Voice Needed

Parent voice is extremely lacking in the local early intervention councils (LEICC) across the state.

Per the public health law of New York State, LEICC’s are to be established in each municipality. The LEICC
meetings shall take place in an open public forum and appropriate public notice of the meetings shall be provided to enable public participation.

The LEICC shall consist of members appointed by the early intervention official. Each LEICC shall consist of the following members:

- at least four parents of infants or toddlers with disabilities or children aged three through twelve with disabilities;

- at least three providers of early intervention services;

- at least one representative of child care providers;

- the chief executive officers or their designees of the municipality’s departments of social services, health and mental hygiene;

- a representative from the local developmental disabilities services office; and

- a representative from one or more committees on preschool special education of local school districts in the municipality.

The purpose of the LEICC is to advise the early intervention official regarding:

(1) the planning for, delivery and assessment of the early intervention services for eligible children and their families, including the transition from early intervention services to services and programs under section forty-four hundred ten of the education law and other early childhood programs;

(2) the identification of service delivery reforms needed to promote the availability of early intervention services within natural environments;
(3) the coordination of public and private agencies; and

(4) such other matters relating to early intervention policies and procedures within the municipality as are brought to its attention by parents, providers, public agencies or others.

We encourage parents to contact their local departments of health to inquire about the LEICC in their area and become a voice for all the young children in need of these important developmental services.

New York also has a statewide early intervention council (SEICC).

The Children's Agenda
1 South Washington Street, Suite 120 | Rochester, New York 14614
(585) 256-2620 | info@thechildrensagenda.org

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