



New York Council of Administrators of Special Education

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

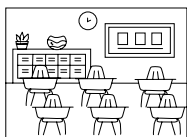
The New York Council of Administrators of Special Education (NYCASE) represents educational leaders dedicated to ensuring students with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment. As districts statewide face increasing operational, fiscal, and staffing challenges, NYCASE urges the Legislature, Governor, and New York State Education Department to take coordinated action on the following priorities:

Ensuring Student Safety & Access Amid School Nursing Shortages



NYCASE strongly supports amendments to Education Law Sections 3001-e and 3001-f allowing licensed health professionals to train designated school personnel to administer seizure rescue medications in emergencies. These changes address the school nurse shortage while ensuring students with seizure disorders have timely, life-saving care. Permitting trained staff to respond when a nurse is unavailable promotes equitable access to education in the least restrictive environment, reduces unnecessary exclusions, and helps districts maintain student safety while managing costs responsibly.

Addressing the Growing Shortage of Appropriate Placements



NYCASE urges NYSED to work with school districts to address the growing shortage of appropriate educational placements for students with disabilities. Districts face increasing barriers to securing timely programs that meet students' individualized academic, behavioral, and therapeutic needs, risking service delays and compliance challenges. NYCASE calls for immediate, coordinated state action—including increased funding, expanded approved programs, and strengthened collaboration among NYSED, BOCES, districts, and nonpublic providers—to build capacity across the continuum of services.

Securing Dedicated Funding for FAPE 22



NYCASE urges inclusion of dedicated FAPE 22 funding in the Executive Budget, either through a separate appropriation or enhanced Foundation Aid and reimbursement. Although districts are required to serve students with disabilities through age 22, the lack of targeted funding has created fiscal strain, inconsistent programs, and inequitable access statewide. Sustainable state investment is needed to expand capacity, ensure adequate reimbursement, and support consistent implementation of FAPE 22 across New York State.

Expanding School-Based Mental Health Supports



Students with disabilities face growing social, emotional, and behavioral needs that affect access to instruction. NYCASE urges sustained state funding for school-based mental health supports, including staffing, professional development, and coordinated service models. Increased investment is essential to provide timely services, improve outcomes, and ensure social-emotional supports are a core component of FAPE—not a barrier to learning.