



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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February 14, 2017

Honorable Carl Heastie, Speaker
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building – Room 932
Albany, New York

Dear Speaker Heastie,

We request that the Assembly budget put a premium on the education of children with special needs by providing for the full reimbursement of New York's public schools (K-12) for the cost of special education services which are provided on the basis of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for students who reside in their districts.

The special education services provided to special needs students vary greatly from district to district throughout the State. To pass budgets that comply with the tax levy cap, many schools are forced to cut programs and services. These financial constraints are putting severe pressure on school officials to reduce special education services.

By the State fully funding the cost of special education services provided pursuant to an IEP, we will ensure that all special needs students, no matter where they live, have the necessary programs and services to help lead them to independent, productive and fulfilling lives.

We respectfully request that the Assembly budget include sufficient monies to fully cover the cost of K-12 special education services statewide.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Abinanti".

Thomas J. Abinanti
Assemblyman 92nd, A.D.