

Summary of Budget Recommendations For State Fiscal Year 2015-16

STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. Include a tuition increase for the 2015/16 school year for both classroom based 4410 preschools and 853 school age special education approved programs
2. Include funds for a 4410 preschool safety net pool to be used for essential renovations and/or time-limited emergency funding for providers in fiscal distress
3. Include the State Education Department's recommendations including the creation of a statutory index for establishing growth in annual tuition rates to maintain fiscal viability for 853 schools in the 2015/16 budget
4. Include a statutory index for tuition increases for classroom based 4410 preschool special education providers
5. Support the creation of new Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) regional rates which will cover the true costs of providing the service
6. Reject a blanket waiver of State special education requirements.
7. Support Universal Full Day Preschool opportunities in 4410 schools

OPWDD

1. Support funds for the development of new services and supports *but*:
 - a. include additional funding for the development of residential supports for 300 people with high priority needs who reside at home and need 24 hour residential support
 - b. include additional funding for the addition of 1000 new opportunities in Supported Employment and make sure there are other funds to support the creation of other day options, the transportation that will accompany these services and to maintain the current day program models for those who require a more supportive setting.
2. Include funds to assist in meeting the CMS requirement to downsize Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF's)
3. Include funds to support the entire cost of room and board in certain certified housing options
4. Support the increase for Direct Support Professionals and clinical staff
5. Support expansion of the Nurse Practice Act exemption
6. Support the transition of 249 residents of Developmental Centers or Intermediate Care Facilities to community-based residences.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM /ARTICLE 16 CLINICS

1. Include a 4.8% increase in the Early Intervention Program reimbursement rates
2. Restore the cut to Article 16 clinics as has already been done for other clinics.