



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

News Release

For Immediate Release

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NYC DOE Special Education Data Release Shows Need for Better Service Delivery and Better Data System

November 2, 2018 (NEW YORK CITY) — Today, Kim Sweet, Executive Director of Advocates for Children of New York (AFC), issued the following statement in response to the New York City Department of Education's [annual report of information regarding students receiving special education services pursuant to Local Law 27 of 2015](#):

The data released today showcase the need for better service delivery and a better data system for New York City's more than 200,000 students with disabilities.

While the data show incremental improvements, we are alarmed that more than 20 percent of students with disabilities—nearly 40,000 students—are still going without the full special education instruction they are entitled to receive under the law. Given the 40-point gap in reading proficiency between students with disabilities and their nondisabled peers, it is essential that the DOE ensure students with disabilities receive the instruction they need.

To help ensure students get the services they need, we also need data we can trust. Two years ago, the DOE issued an [assessment report on the Special Education Student Information System \(SE SIS\)](#) finding it “apparent that improvements are needed.” But the data report released today shows that the DOE still lacks the internal systems to report data with the necessary accuracy. The City must improve the reliability of its special education data and provide parents with full access to their child's SE SIS records so that parents can monitor their child's special education evaluations, programs, and services.

The DOE's data report is available at https://infohub.nyced.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/annual-special-education-data-report-sy-17-18.docx?Status=Temp&sfvrsn=538f6981_2.

About Advocates for Children of New York (AFC)

Since 1971, Advocates for Children of New York has worked to ensure a high-quality education for New York students who face barriers to academic success, focusing on students from low-income backgrounds who are at greatest risk for failure or discrimination in school because of their poverty, disability, race, ethnicity, immigrant or English Language Learner status, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems. AFC uses four integrated strategies: free advice and legal representation for families of students; free trainings and workshops for parents, communities, and educators and other professionals to equip them to advocate on behalf of students; policy advocacy to effect change in the education system and improve education outcomes; and impact litigation to protect the right to quality education and compel needed reform.