

Back to School 2026



Advocates for Children of New York
Protecting every child's right to learn



Presentation Overview

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About AFC

Important Dates

School Transportation

Placement issues

IEP issues

Language Access

Students in Temporary Housing

Suspension Reminders



What is Advocates for Children (AFC)?

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AFC is an independent agency that protects the rights of all NYC students

Our Services:

- Helpline: **1-866-427-6033** (Mon-Thurs, 10am – 4pm)
- Guides and resources: www.advocatesforchildren.org
- Workshops and trainings
- Free legal services to income eligible families



Learn more at [advocatesforchildren.org!](https://advocatesforchildren.org/)

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Find back-to-school updates

<https://advocatesforchildren.org/back-to-school>

Watch other webinars

<https://advocatesforchildren.org/trainings-workshops/>



Important Dates!

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First day of school

Sept 10th



Parent Teacher Conferences

Sept 23: Middle and D75

Sept 24: High School, K-12 and 6-12

Sept 30: Elementary School & Pre K Centers

<https://advocatesforchildren.org/resource/parent-teacher-conferences-what-you-should-ask/>



Reminder:

No Cellphones/Devices in Schools

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No devices during the school day



Exceptions: medical, accommodations, family emergency



School-issued devices OK



Emergency communications is allowed



Schools must store devices



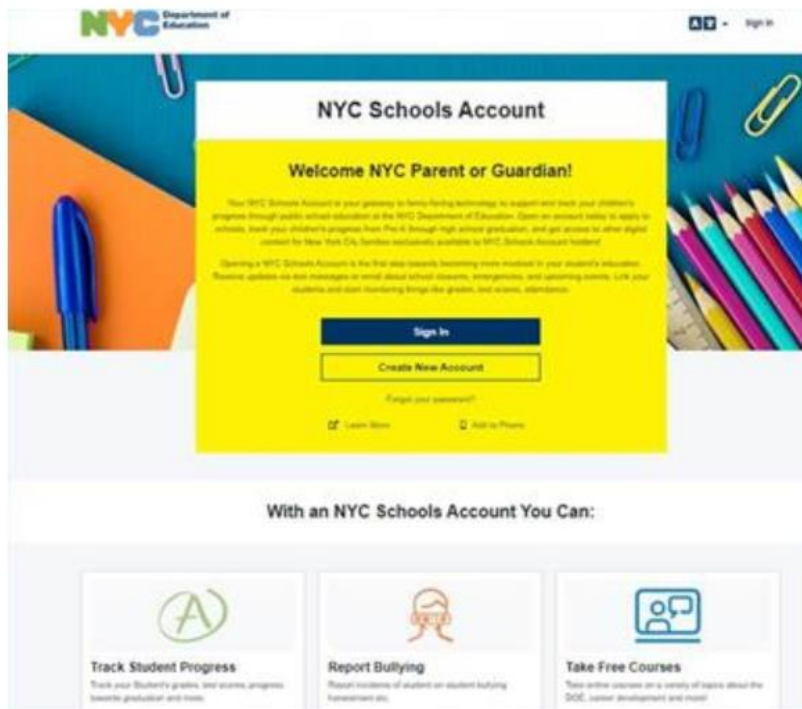
What if your child breaks the rule?



NYC Student Account (NYCSA)

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NYCSA Parent Portal



The new NYC Schools Account (NYCSA) Portal will allow you to:

- See your students grades, test scores and more in My Student
- Take classes in Parent University
- Report bullying
- Access forms for your child
- Reset your child's DOE account password
- Access SupportHub

All with one login!



How to Create Your NYCSA



Online

- Visit <https://www.schoolsaccount.nyc/>
- Click “create new account” and follow the prompts
- You will need an email address, a password, and your child’s creation code

How to obtain
your child’s
creation code?

- Visit your child's school
- Call your child's school
- Ask for a letter from school

Need help?

- Talk to your child's school
- Call 311



What's available on NYCSA?

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www.schoolsaccount.nyc

Welcome, Parent

Your Students



Name: Child 1
ID: 123456789



Name: Child 2
ID: 123456789



Add Student



MyStudent

Get your student's grades, test scores, attendance, transportation information, and progress toward promotion.



Forms

Access and sign important forms for your student.



Parent University

Take free courses on a wide range of subjects to support your student's learning or your own.



Bullying Reporting

Report incidents of student bullying.



Support Hub

Get answers to your questions about the DOE, file a ticket to request tech help, or chat with us.



NYCSA Portal

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Name: Child I
Grade: 8

Desktop or Mobile App



Your high school student may be eligible for discounted NYC Ferry tickets! To get your Discount Code, click on **Transportation** under **My Student**



Grades



Assignments



Assessments



Reading and
Math Progress



Promotion
Tracker



Graduation
Tracker



Student
Documents



IEP



Student
Academic
Supports



Attendance



Schedule



Student
Wellness



Transportation



Guardians



Enrollment



School Transportation





IEP Mandated Busing: What To Do?

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How do you find bus company information:

- Check NYCSA at www.schoolsaccount.nyc
- Call your child's school and ask transportation liaison for bus company # and bus route #

Contacting the Bus Company

- Bus company should call with pick up times
- Call bus company if there are delays

Review Individualized Education Program (IEP) for transportation accommodations

- Does NYCSA match information on IEP?
- Does IEP show what the child's needs?
- Will bus company provide what is on IEP?

Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT)

- Call 718-392-8855 if you have a problem
- OPT will not share bus route info
- Don't forget to file a complaint and get incident #



Bus App: Track your Child's Bus!

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NYC School Bus App

Introducing the city's new way to track your child's bus rides to and from school.



<https://doe.app.ridewithvia.com/schoolbus/login>



Transportation Resources

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AFC's factsheet on arranging transportation



Office of Pupil Transportation's parent-facing information



Check www.advocatesforchildren.org and
www.schools.nyc.gov for updates



Questions?

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Enrolling in School

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For students who need a school or haven't completed an application through MySchools:

Grades K-8

- If you have a zoned school, enroll at the school directly
- If you do not have a zoned school, go to the Family Welcome Center (FWC) near your home for a school assignment

High School (9 – 12 Grades)

- Go online and make an appointment at a FWC near your home or
- Call 718-935-3500 for help

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/family-welcome-centers>



What if Your Child Has No School Placement?

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No Placement: K - 12th Grades

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DI-32

- Zoned Schools K-8
- Go to FWC
 - call 718-935-2009 or make appointment online
- Admissions process
 - your child can join waitlists
- Specialized Programs

D75

- Did you receive?
 - Prior Written Notice (PWN) or School Location Letter (SLL)
- email D75Placement@schools.nyc.gov or call (718) 935-2009 and ask for D75 placement

Make sure school can provide your child's IEP program and services
DO NOT change IEP unless you think it's right for your child.



No Placement: Preschool

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3-K & Pre-K

- Children born in 2023 and 2022
- No IEP, Related Services, SEIT
- Office of Enrollment (718) 935-2009
- esenrollment@schools.nyc.gov

Special Class

- Special Class or Special Class in Integrated Setting
- Contact the [CPSE](#) where you live
- Email preschool@afcnyc.org if you still need help!

There is no busing for 3-K and Pre-K, but children attending a special class or SCIS have a right to door-to-door busing. Email EarlyChildhoodBusing@schools.nyc.gov for help.



IEP Issues

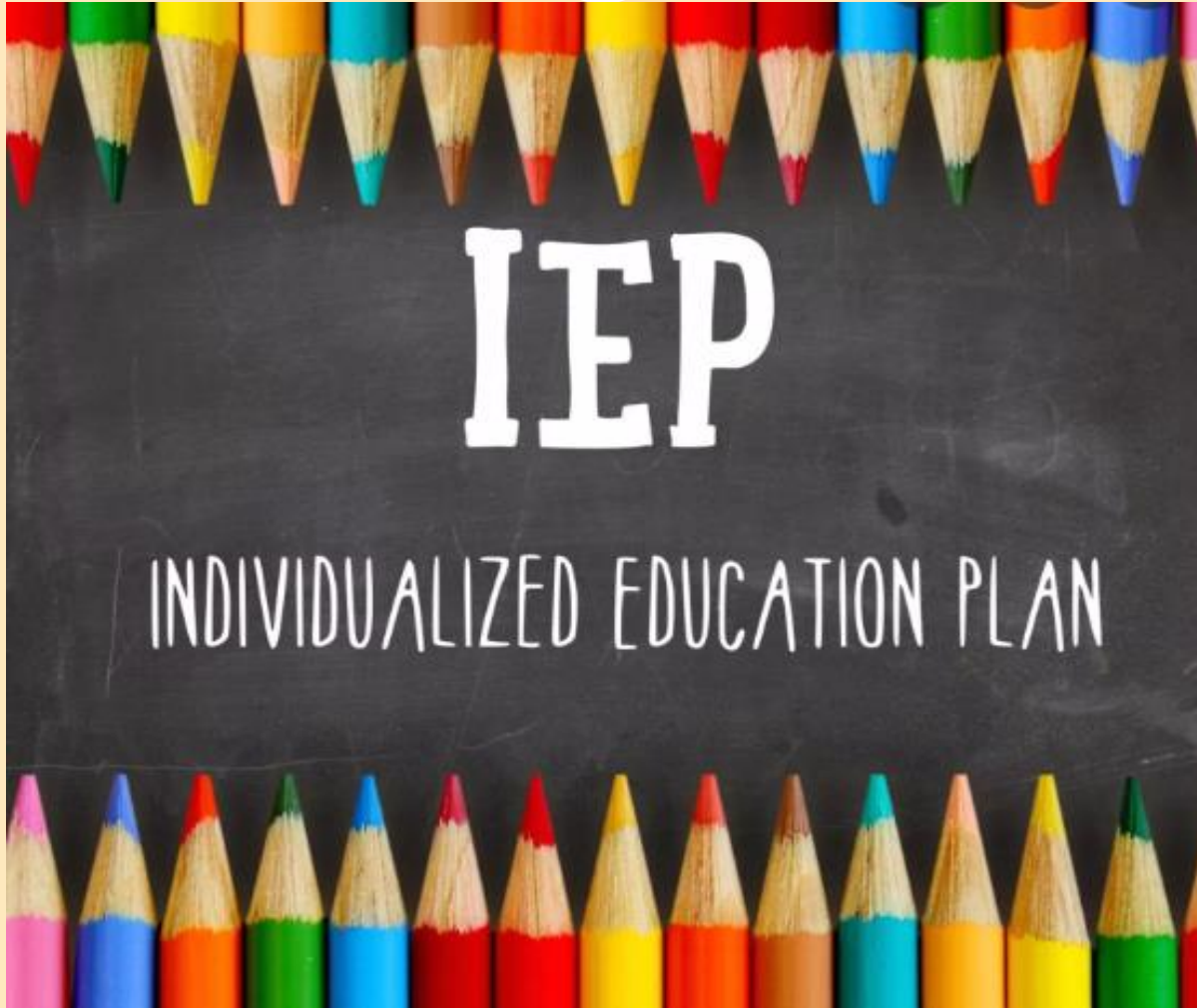
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What if Your Child Needs Different Supports?

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How to Change Your Child's IEP

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Get proof

What supports the IEP change? Gather all records and give to the school

- Your child may need new evaluations

Ask

Ask for an IEP meeting in writing, say what you want

- Some examples: Do you want an evaluation, busing on the IEP, more time on tests?)

IEP Meeting

Bring people who support you, take notes, ask for program pages to be printed out for your records

Follow up

Get a copy of your child's finalized IEP
Escalate if you need to



Specialized Programs

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Bilingual ICT or Special Class



ASD Nest & Horizon, AIMS (Autism)



ACES (Intellectual Disability)



Barrier Free/ Accessible Schools



Literacy: I Read (K-I)/Dyslexia



For more information on specialized programs see [here](#).



New Preschool Specialized Programs

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Preschool Autism
Nest, Horizon,
AIMS, PATH, and
ACES

In districts 2, 5, 6,
7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14,
15, 20, 21, and 30.

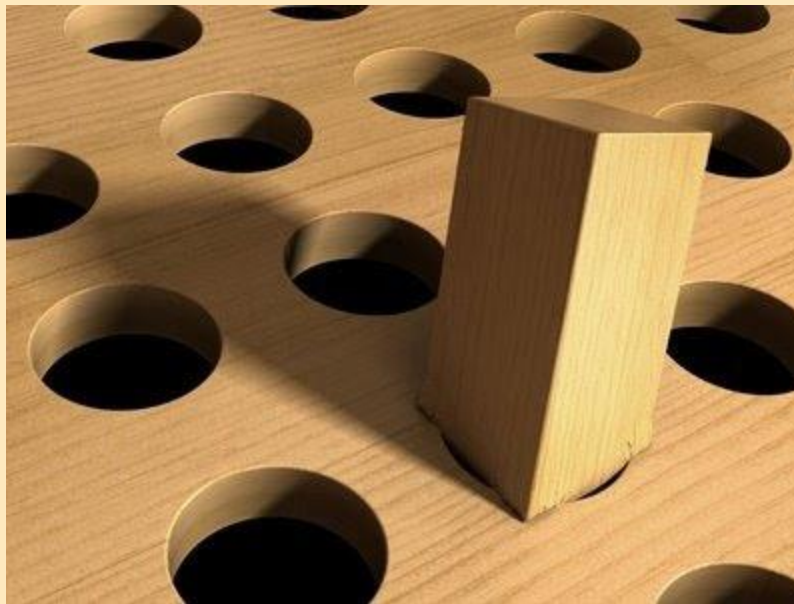
The CPSE works
with Specialized
Programs Team to
place students





What If Your Child's School Can't Provide the Services in Their IEP?

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How Do You Know?

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Ask the school if they can provide what's on the IEP

Research what programs and services the school has available

Schools should be able to provide program and services on IEP

Your child does not have a right to an individual school, but the IEP program and services should be in place from beginning of year



Check NYCSA for IEP Related Information!

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➔ Click on “IEP” tab to get more information on your child's: teachers and service providers

IEP Information

Next Event: IEP meeting due by 05/19/2027

Disability Classification: Autism

Placement Recommendation: NYC DOE School Non-Specialized (District 1-32)

Assessments: The student will participate in the same state and district-wide assessments of student achievement that are administered to general education students.

Recommended Services

Program Services

If your child's IEP recommends a Special Class, Integrated Co-Teaching, or Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS) in a subject and you do not see class information for that subject below, please contact your child's principal or teacher. You can also email specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov or call 311 if you need help contacting your child's school.

Program	Delivery Recommendations	Frequency	Date Range
Integrated Co-Teaching Services ELA	English	10 time(s) per week	05/20/2026 - TBD
Integrated Co-Teaching Services Math	English	10 time(s) per week	05/20/2026 - TBD
Integrated Co-Teaching Services Sciences	English	3 time(s) per week	05/20/2026 - TBD
Integrated Co-Teaching Services Social Studies	English	2 time(s) per week	05/20/2026 - TBD

Related Services

If you have questions about a recent session that is not yet reflected, please allow up to four school weeks from the scheduled session date before contacting the school or provider. You can email specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov or call 311 if you need help contacting your child's school.

Service	Language	Frequency	Date Range	Date of First Service	Date of Latest Documented Service	Provider Name
Speech-Language Therapy	English, Group of 5	2 time(s) per week	05/21/2026 - 06/30/2026	09/15/2025	05/21/2026	
Speech-Language	English, Group of 5	2 time(s) per week	05/21/2026 - 06/30/2026			



NYC School Level Class Size Report

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<https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/government-reports/class-size-reports>
Click on “Detailed School Level Data” Excel file for more information

Grade Level	Program Type	Department	Subject	Number of Students	Number of Classes	Average Class Size	Minimum Class Size	Maximum Class Size
HS Core	Gen Ed	Social Studies	HS Global History	108	5	21.6	16.0	33.0
HS Core	Gen Ed	Social Studies	HS Government & Econ	109	4	27.3	25.0	33.0
HS Core	Gen Ed	Social Studies	HS Social Studies Other	50	2	25.0	24.0	26.0
HS Core	Gen Ed	Social Studies	HS US History	77	3	25.7	25.0	26.0
HS Core	ICT	English	HS English 09	97	4	24.3	23.0	26.0
HS Core	ICT	English	HS English 10	73	3	24.3	23.0	26.0
HS Core	ICT	English	HS English 11	44	2	22.0	19.0	25.0
HS Core	ICT	English	HS English 12	44	2	22.0	19.0	25.0



Are Most Students Getting What is on Their IEPs?

School: High School of Hospitality Management - [HS] 02M296

Year: 2024-25

Select Language

Powered by Google Translate

School
Description

Instruction and
Performance

Safety and
School Climate

Relationships
with Families

Movement of students with special needs to less restrictive environments



What percentage of students with IEPs received their recommended special education programs?

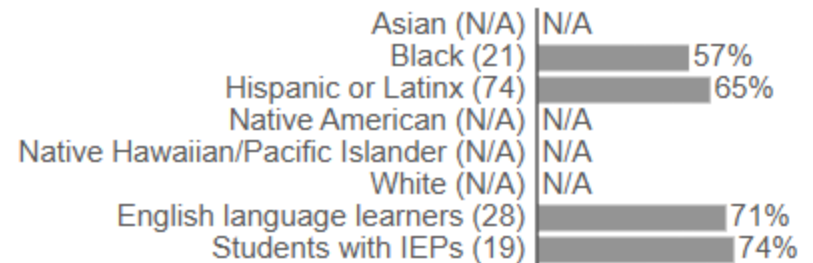
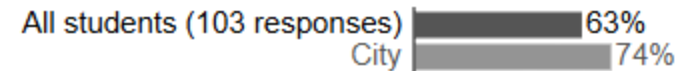
88% received in full (City: 93%)
N/A received in part (City: 6%)
N/A did not receive (City: 1%)

What percentage of students with IEPs received their recommended related services (such as counseling or speech, occupational or physical therapy)?

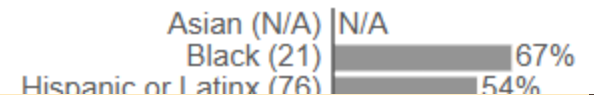
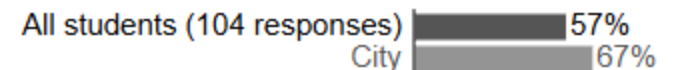
79% received in full (City: 94%)
0% received in part (City: <1%)
21% did not receive (City: 6%)

Selected Questions from the NYC School Survey

What percentage of students say that their teachers have high expectations for them?



What percentage of students say that they learn a lot from feedback on their work?



Find school on DOE website, look for School Quality Reports, under Supportive Environment



Makeup Services

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Related Service Authorizations (RSAs)

- For related services (ex. speech language therapy)
- Provider must be licensed with NYS
- You can ask for increased rate

P3/P4s

- For Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS)
- Provider must be licensed with NYS
- You can ask for increased rate

CHECK EXPIRATION DATES!



Vouchers

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PI/Nickerson Letter

- A voucher for state approved NPS
- Steps:
 - Student's IEP recommends a small class, and the DOE does not provide student with a seat
 - Parent asks the DOE for voucher and receives it
 - Student is accepted by state approved NPS
 - NPS must be licensed to serve students with the classification on child's IEP
 - Program should be similar to child's IEP

CHECK EXPIRATION DATES!



Informal Dispute Resolution

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Start with the School

- Parent Coordinator, Principal



District Superintendent's Office

- Family Support Coordinator or District Family Advocate



Central Offices

- (718) 935-2007 or
specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov



Who to Contact for Help Outside of School

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Related services

- Relatedservices@schools.nyc.gov

Kindergarten IEP

- KindergartenIEPProcess@schools.nyc.gov
- Specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov

Special Education at Charter Schools

- [CSE Chairperson](#)

Specialized Programs

- Specializedprograms@schools.nyc.gov

Call AFC's Helpline! (866) 427-6033



Formal Dispute Resolution

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Mediation

- Voluntary meeting
- Mediator leads meeting
- Can still go to an Impartial Hearing

Impartial Hearing

- Legal proceeding
- An Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO) in charge.
- Written decision, can appeal

State Education Complaint

- Ask the NY SED to investigate
- Can order the DOE to make up services
- May not order I:L make up



Questions?

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Language Access Rights

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- Parents have the right to get documents translated, including report cards and IEPs
- Parents also have the right to interpretation services at school meetings and events
- DOE Languages: Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Haitian Creole, French, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Urdu, and Uzbek



Problems with translation or interpretation?

Email Hello@schools.nyc.gov or

Call DOE complaint line: (718) 935-2013



Program Options for ELLs

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ELLs must be enrolled in one of three programs:

English as a New Language (ENL)

Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE)

Dual Language (DL)





English Language Learners with IEPs

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- Bilingual special education classes are limited
- May get an alternate placement para/SETSS
- Email BSEPrograms@schools.nyc.gov for help
- Options for Older ELLs (with or without IEPs)
 - Transfer schools for ELLs
 - International High Schools
 - Credit transfers from prior school



For a list of DOE bilingual programs: <https://infohub.nyced.org/in-our-schools/programs/english-language-learners-programs-and-services>



Students in Temporary Housing

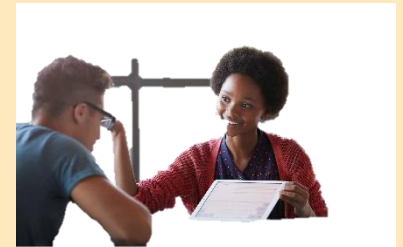
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**Continued Enrollment
or
Immediate Enrollment**

Transportation

**Title I
STH
Services**

**STH
School-
Based
Liaison &
STH
Staff**



For help:

- Contact AFC's Project LIT at (212) 822-9546 or projectlit@afcnyc.org
- Contact the DOE Students in Temporary Housing (STH) [Regional Manager](#)



Reminders if your child is suspended

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Notice must be in writing

No out of school suspensions!

Principal's suspensions: Ask for a conference

Superintendent's suspensions: Get the packet

Discipline policy is different in Charter Schools!

Call AFC for help



Wrapping up: Reminders!

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Please take our survey!

- Call Our Helpline: 866-427-6033
 - Toll free
 - Monday-Thursday
 - 10am-4pm
- Email Us: Info@advocatesforchildren.org

Back to School 26-27 Webinar
Survey

