



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

State Early Intervention Coordinating Council
December 11, 2024
Public Comment

Advocates for Children of New York joins families, advocates, and providers across the State in expressing our deep concern that the State has not yet moved forward with the 5% rate increase for in-person Early Intervention services that was supposed to begin on April 1st.

Since the pandemic, we have been hearing from families of children waiting to receive their Early Intervention services who have only been offered services through telehealth, although it is not appropriate for their child, because there are no providers to work with them in person. In fact, New York is ranked last in the nation in providing EI services by the legal deadline.

While we have no vested interest in provider rates, we are very concerned about children going without the services they need due to shortages of providers. We urge Governor Hochul and the Department of Health to immediately implement the 5% rate increase and make the increase retroactive to April 1, 2024 and to take all necessary steps to ensure that the additional 4% modifier for services in underserved and rural areas begins on time in April 2025.

We also ask the Department of Health to work diligently and make any additional investments needed to address challenges with EI-Hub that are causing delays in the referral and evaluation processes and in service implementation. Thank you.

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Advocates for Children of New York