**Legislative update regarding preschool services and MH grants**

**4/7/2020**

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| Dear NYASP Member,We thought that you needed to hear some good news and positive outcomes of the work completed by the Legislative Team at NYASP!As many may remember, a few years ago, NYSED ruled that school psychologists were not eligible to provide services in the majority of preschools throughout NY. At that time, a massive advocacy campaign by NYASP and the near shutdown of preschool programs across the state resulted in legislation that allowed for the continuation of services by school psychologists at the preschool level. This legislation was scheduled to "sunset" in June 2020. Despite the disruption of the current situation, our Legislative Team worked diligently with our partners in the NYS Legislature to obtain an extension of the provisions contained within the original legislation as part of the 2021 NYS Budget process. This will allow school psychologists to continue this vital work without interruption!In addition to this important advocacy, NYASP supported a NYS Budget proposals to authorize grants to school districts to provide mental health supports to students resulting from the trauma and disruption of the COVID-19 Pandemic.The Budget provides $10 million in funding for grants to school districts to address student mental health in light of recent school closures. These grants are intended to improve student access to mental health resources and assist students who have experienced trauma that negatively affects their educational experience. This program will be administered by the Office of Mental Health, and developed in consultation with the State Education Department.The good news is that both of these items were included in the final approved 2021 NYS Budget. While the remainder of the Legislative Session is uncertain at this time, NYASP will continue to advocate for legislation that provides for licensure of school psychologists in NY, as well as legislation that would require schools to hire at least one school psychologist in every school to provide non-special education services.We like to say that NYASP advocates for ALL school psychologists in NY, whether you are a member or not! But it sure would be nice if all school psychologists supported the work of NYASP through membership. Just a gentle reminder that NYASP has an "annual recurring payment" option, which provides for recurring payments to be automatically activated on your account yearly, on the date membership is initiated or renewed. Therefore, joining at ANY point in the year gives you a full year of membership.Stay well and thank you for all of the amazing work that you are doing!Kelly Caci & John Kelly |

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