**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**CONTACT:**

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**THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ALLIANCE OF WNY AND A COALITION OF 853 SCHOOLS AND 4410 PRESCHOOLS URGE STATE TO OFFER FAIR AND EQUITABLE FUNDING TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AS OFFERED TO PEERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**WHAT: *Buffalo, NY* -** Briefing to discuss the proposed tuition disparity between public school districts and 853 schools and 4410 preschools. It is anticipated that public schools could receive as much as a 7 percent rate increase while schools for children with disabilities are anticipated to receive a 4 percent rate increase. 853/4410 schools that are members of the Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York (DDAWNY) and a coalition of organizations operating 853/4410 school are urging approval of 7 percent increase to provide services to children whose home school districts have determined their needs exceed the capabilities of public districts. The collaboration of schools are asking New York State to offer equity and parity to children with disabilities in order for them to have the same opportunities as their peers in public education.

**WHO:** Doug DiGesare, CEO at the Arc of Erie County New York

Kathy Doody, Board Member and Parent from the Summit Center

 Karen Maywhether, Preschool Principal at the Arc of Erie County New York

Colleen Christman, Kindergarten**-**2nd Grade Teacher at Cantalician Center for Learning

 Anthony Parisi, Parent of Preschool Student from Aspire Center for Learning

 Carrie Preston, Grandmother of School Age Student from Aspire Center for Learning

Jamillah Davis, Parent of High School Student from Cantalician Center for Learning

 Douglas Perry, High School Student from Cantalician Center for Learning

Assemblymember Monica Wallace

**WHERE:** Aspire Center for Learning

 4635 Union Road

Cheektowaga, NY 14225

**WHEN: Friday, June 4, 2021**

10:30 AM

 Social Distancing Required