



ANGELO SANTABARBARA
Assemblyman 111th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Subcommittee on Autism
Spectrum Disorders
COMMITTEES
Agriculture
Energy
Governmental Employees
Mental Health
Racing and Wagering
Veterans' Affairs

June 3rd, 2020

The Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York
State Capitol Building
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

With your recent decision to allow summer day camps for children to open on June 29th in New York State, I ask that you also consider opening the many summer school programs for kids with disabilities that still remain closed.

Currently, under your directive, summer school classes will continue only through distance learning this year. These summer school programs include outdoor activities, art, music, physical education and swimming as well as integrated academic, language, physical and occupational therapy and social skill development. The reality is, without these special education programs many school districts cannot support all of their students with disabilities that include those who are deaf or hard of hearing, have visual impairments, multiple disabilities or cannot use computers independently.

Statistics show that special education students are at much greater risk of falling behind without a summer school program. I urge you to provide the necessary guidelines that would allow these summer programs to safely open. Even under the current circumstances, the state has an obligation to provide the services outlined in each student's individualized education or medical plan.

Please do all that you can help serve the educational needs of this population during the upcoming summer school period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angelo Santabarbara".

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara
Assembly Chair of the Sub-Committee on Autism Spectrum Disorders