



THE 853 COALITION

December 30, 2021

Statement from the NYS Coalition of 853 Schools on the Veto of the Rate Parity Bill (S6516A/A8013A)

While the NYS Coalition of 853 Schools is deeply disappointed in Governor Hochul's decision to veto S.6516-A (Mannion)/A.8013-A (Benedetto), that would have applied annual growth percentages to the tuition rate methodology on par with the growth provided annually to public school districts, we appreciate the Governor's commitment to include an 11% increase for the 2022-23 school year for both preschool and school age special education in her Executive Budget.

Our students are public school students with disabilities that are not able to be served by our traditional public schools, and they are entitled to a free and appropriate education. We will be excited to see the new Administration provide support for all public school students. This commitment by the Governor signals to us a new opportunity for engagement related to supporting the education and related services our students deserve. As the Governor acknowledged in her veto message, our schools are struggling to recruit and retain special education teachers and staff, and costs have increased—and our students' needs must be met through a strong partnership with the state in addressing under-funding and the challenges inherent in the tuition rate methodology.

We also thank the bill Sponsors, Senator Mannion and Assembly Member Benedetto, as well as Commissioner Rosa and The NYS Education Department for their leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with the Governor, the legislature, NYSED and all of our dedicated state partners to build upon this commitment to the success of our students through critical investments in our teachers and related services professionals and reform of the tuition rate methodology.