

For Immediate Release
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Contact
Paul Larrabee
518.689.7246 (Direct) / 518.491.7577 (Cell)
plarrabee@corningplace.com

**New York's Schools for the Blind, Deaf and Severely Disabled
Strive to Elevate Disability Awareness Every Day**

Advocates Join Day of Action at the Capitol; Launch Statewide Outreach Effort.

**4201
Schools
Association**

Clary School
for the Deaf

Henry Viscardi
School

Lavelle School
for the Blind

Lexington School
for the Deaf

Mill Neck Manor School
for the Deaf

The New York Institute
for Special Education

New York School
for the Deaf

Rochester School
for the Deaf

St. Francis de Sales
School for the Deaf

St. Joseph's School
for the Deaf

St. Mary's School
for the Deaf

*Meeting the
educational needs
of New York's
blind, deaf and
physically disabled
children.*

Representatives of schools serving the state's deaf, blind and severely disabled students today joined state legislators and disability rights advocates for a day of action and education at the state Capitol.

The New York State Assembly Legislative Disabilities Day brings together service providers of New York's special needs population, including members of the 4201 Schools Association. Patrice Kuntlzer, Executive Director of the Henry Viscardi School www.henryviscardischool.org, based in Albertson (Nassau County), joined Assemblyman Michael Cusick in honoring Clifton Perez who was presented with the Henry Viscardi Award for leadership in the field of disabled advocacy. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Dr. Viscardi's birth, a pioneer in the disability rights movement, and the founder of the school specializing in meeting the educational needs of children with severe physical disabilities.

The [4201 Schools](http://www.4201schools.org) provide educational and related services to students with low-incidence disabilities. They are named for the provision in state education law that authorizes their funding.

"Across New York, and the nation, we must remain committed to ensuring that *every day* we strive to make at least one more person aware of the triumphs and the abilities of children who may be blind, deaf or severely disabled," said Timothy Kelly, Chairman of the 4201 Schools Association and superintendent of the Buffalo-based [St. Mary's School for the Deaf](http://www.stmaryschoolfortheblind.org).

"Parents and educators need to know that the special education services offered at each of New York's schools pave the way to a future of independence and fulfillment," Kelly continued.

Today's day of action coincides with an outreach effort by the 4201 Schools Association to inform local school district administrators and educators of a common sense, cost-effective service option for disabled children up to age 21. It is the Association's goal to contact every school district in the state and encourage consideration of placement as a means of meeting the objectives of each student's Individual Education Plan (IEP), and addressing the key elements of instruction within the affective, language/communication, cognitive and motoric domains.

Disabilities Awareness Day provides a forum for participants to inform Assembly members and their staffs about key issues impacting the disabled while highlighting the latest technology, programs and services that address their needs.

To learn more about the 4201 schools association or its member schools please visit: <http://4201schoolsassociation.wordpress.com/>.