

Cleary 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.*

For Immediate Release:

December 5, 2013

**DR. BERNADETTE KAPPEN OF THE NY INSTITUTE FOR SPECIAL
EDUCATION TO CHAIR 4201 SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION**

The 4201 Schools Association today announced that Bernadette Kappen, Ph.D., has been elected chairwoman by the association's membership.

Dr. Kappen, who is currently the association's vice chairwoman, serves as executive director of The New York Institute for Special Education (NYISE) – a private, nonprofit school in the Bronx that serves blind or visually disabled, emotionally and learning-disabled children, and preschoolers who are developmentally delayed.

Timothy Kelly, superintendent of St. Mary's School for the Deaf in Buffalo, will be the association's vice chairman after a two-year term as chair.

The 4201 Schools Association, which gets his name from the section of state law that authorizes its funding, represents 11 special education schools across the state that serve blind, deaf and severely physically disabled children. The board is made up of representatives from each of the 11 schools.

"I am honored that my colleagues have the confidence in my ability to lead the association," Dr. Kappen said. "We face ongoing challenges to provide the most effective and cost-effective educational programs so our students become as productive and successful as their abilities will take them. I am especially pleased to continue working with Tim Kelly, who is an inspiring champion for the children we serve."

Prior to joining NYISE, Dr. Kappen spent 25 years at the Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia, where she last served as executive director. She established the Overbrook Friedlander Programs for individuals who are deaf-blind. Her programs became models for professionals throughout the country.

Dr. Kappen is secretary to the Vision Serve Alliance board; vice president of Deafblind International; and a member of the Council of Schools for the Blind; the Council for Exceptional Children; and the Association for the Education of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Dr. Kappen is a graduate of Dominican College in Orangeburg, Rockland County, where she now serves as a board trustee.

To learn more about how you can have a student's educational needs evaluated, please contact one of our member schools, or visit us on the web:

<http://4201schoolsassociation.wordpress.com>.

The 4201 Schools Association represents 11 private, state-supported schools that serve blind, deaf or severely physically disabled students. The “4201 schools” are so known because of the section of New York State Education Law (§4201) that grants their funding. Students in 4201 schools receive a quality education in a supportive and challenging setting from teachers and staff with specialized training and experience. Students develop emotional, social and cognitive abilities that are crucial to their success. The schools also provide extracurricular activities, leadership opportunities and mentoring.

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