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ADVOCATES FOR BLIND, DEAF AND SEVERELY DISABLED IN ALBANY TODAY

**4201
Schools
Association**

Cleary School
for the Deaf

Henry Viscardi
School

Lexington 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

Advocates for schools representing blind, deaf and severely physically disabled students will be in Albany today for the annual 4201 Schools Association Advocacy Day.

Students, teachers, administrators and families will ask lawmakers to continue their support for children with low-incidence disabilities.

Tim Kelly, association vice-chair and superintendent of [St. Mary's School for the Deaf](#) in Buffalo, will lead the delegation. They will ask decision-makers to approve an increase in state support at whatever levels public school aid is increased, and authorize \$5 million in additional funds to address critical infrastructure needs that address health and safety issues for the schools. The association is also seeking to expand additional infrastructure improvements through State Dormitory Authority financing.

“Our association and, by extension, our students have been fortunate in recent years to have had the support of the administration and the Legislature,” Kelly said. “In 2015, our schools received a \$2.3 million increase, the first increase since 2008, and an additional \$2.3 million increase last year. However, most of our schools are very old, and are in desperate need of funds to pay for capital improvement projects.”

Many association members have been calling attention to their infrastructure needs in a series of videos that were produced this year.

[St. Mary's School for the Deaf](#) produced [this video](#) highlighting the school's capital needs.

“Our aging, 11-acre Main Street campus is comprised of seven buildings, the oldest of which dates back to 1898,” Kelly said. “At St. Mary's, we are not unique when it comes to the condition of our buildings. All members of the 4201 Schools Association are experiencing similar challenges. We really need help from the state to create safer environments for students.”

Other schools produced videos, including [Henry Viscardi School](#) in Albertson, Nassau County, [St. Joseph's School for the Deaf](#) in the Bronx and [Cleary School for the Deaf](#) in Nesconset, Suffolk County.



[St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf](#) in Brooklyn featured a young student, left, in a [28-second video clip](#). She will join the delegation today.

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The 4201 Schools Association represents nine 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.*