

**For Immediate Release:**

June 15, 2016

**NY's SCHOOLS SERVING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES PREPARE FOR  
CLASS OF 2017 COMMENCEMENTS**

**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

Students enrolled in nine schools serving blind, deaf, and severely physically disabled students will celebrate this month as they take part in graduation ceremonies across the state.

Beginning today at St. Mary's School for the Deaf in Buffalo, students, their parents, as well as faculty and staff members at 4201 Schools Association member-campus will revel, looking back on their many accomplishments throughout their educational careers.

Ceremonies will take place for high school students and in the lower schools, including middle school and pre-school. Ninety-three students will graduate from high school, with hundreds more advancing to the next grade level.

The 4201 Schools Association advocates on behalf of children with low-incidence disabilities, providing students with educational options through member schools. Dr. Bernadette Kappen, executive director of the New York Institute for Special Education (NYISE) in the Bronx, and chair of the 4201 Schools Association, is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of its students.

"Each year we celebrate the achievements of our students, and we join their families in feeling pride in what they've done," Kappen said. "Our work is intended to create a supportive pathway with the goal of providing our students with a level of independence that allows for their continued academic and personal growth."

Tim Kelly, superintendent of St. Mary's School for the Deaf and vice-chair of the association, said, "We are so proud of our students and the teams of teachers, specialists and assistants that make each of the association's campuses across the state great places to learn. Together with families, friends and all stakeholders we celebrate the class of 2017."

A schedule of upcoming commencements, including school addresses, dates and times for each ceremony follows:

St. Mary's School for the Deaf, 2253 Main St., Buffalo  
7 p.m., June 15

St. Joseph's School for the Deaf, 1000 Hutchinson River Pkwy, Bronx  
10:30 a.m., June 16

St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf, 260 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn  
1 p.m., June 20

New York Institute for Special Education, 999 Pelham Pkwy N, Bronx  
6 p.m., June 21

Henry Viscardi School, 201 I.U. Willets Road, Albertson  
7 p.m., June 22

Lexington School for the Deaf, 26-26 75th Street, East Elmhurst  
7 p.m., June 22

Rochester School for the Deaf, 1545 St. Paul Street, Rochester  
7 p.m., June 22

New York School for the Deaf, 555 Knollwood Road, White Plains  
10 a.m., June 23

Cleary School for the Deaf, 301 Smithtown Blvd, Nesconset (Suffolk)  
6 p.m., June 23, East Islip High School

*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. Students develop emotional, social and cognitive abilities that are crucial to their success. The schools also provide extracurricular activities, leadership opportunities and mentoring.*