

RESOLUTION NO. 2026134

RE: INCREASING COMPENSATION FOR NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION
LAW §4410 PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION (PSE) PROVIDERS IN
DUTCHESS COUNTY

Legislators VALDÉS SMITH, ATKINS, MUNN, POLASEK, METZGER, ALEXANDER, ARNOFF, BRENDLI, DRAGO, FAUST, GILES, KAUL, KEARNEY, REDL, RHODES, SHAH and WINSBY offer the following and moves its adoption:

WHEREAS, preschool special education related services are essential for young children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and other disabilities, providing critical education, therapeutic intervention, and developmental support during the period of greatest brain growth and neuroplasticity; and

WHEREAS, timely access to high-quality preschool special education related services enables many children to require fewer specialized educational supports as they progress through school, while improving long-term educational, developmental, and community outcomes; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 1,497 children enrolled in Preschool Special Education (PSE) in Dutchess County, with 1,321 children receiving related services and 176 children remaining on a waitlist, representing a need for approximately 246 additional service placements; and

WHEREAS, Preschool Special Education related service providers throughout Dutchess County have reported significant challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified professionals due to compensation rates that are not competitive with neighboring counties, resulting in providers seeking employment elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of qualified providers disproportionately affects children living in the County's highest-poverty communities, creating inequitable access to essential in-person preschool special education services; and

WHEREAS, investing in early childhood intervention is an investment in the future of Dutchess County, providing young children with the skills, supports, and opportunities needed to become successful students, engaged community members, and productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, increasing compensation for related service providers serving under New York State Education Law §4410 will demonstrate the County's commitment to valuing these highly skilled professionals, improve workforce retention, attract new providers, and expand access to services for all eligible children; and

FAMILY & HUMAN SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Dutchess County Legislature affirms its commitment to ensuring equitable access to timely Preschool Special Education related services for every eligible child by strengthening the provider workforce and reducing service waitlists; and

WHEREAS, this increase shall be funded consistent with the existing cost-sharing structure, whereby 59.5% of provider reimbursement is funded by New York State and the remaining share is funded by Dutchess County; and

WHEREAS, by investing in the professionals who serve our youngest residents, Dutchess County and New York State reaffirm that early intervention is essential to building stronger families, stronger schools, and a stronger community for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, additional funding from budgeted general contingency is required due to this necessary increase in compensation for the Preschool Special Education related service providers; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2026 Adopted County Budget to provide funds to meet the County's obligations and expenses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Legislature hereby increases the reimbursement rate effective July 1, 2026 for providers of Preschool Special Education Related Services under New York State Education Law § 4410(9)(c) and 4410(1)(j) by Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) per service, subject to approval of the NYS Commissioner of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the reimbursement increase shall be implemented with annual analysis and reporting following each school year to evaluate whether the increased compensation is improving provider recruitment and retention, reducing service waitlists, and advancing equitable access to Preschool Special Education services throughout Dutchess County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that §4410 contract agencies shall submit invoices for services to the Health Department within 90 days of service delivery to ensure funds can be appropriated properly and efficiently.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Finance is authorized, empowered and directed to amend the 2026 Adopted County Budget as follows:

APPROPRIATIONS

Increase

A.4046.33.4480.89	Related Services	\$526,690
A.1990.4007	General Contingency	-\$213,309

FAMILY & HUMAN SERVICES

REVENUES

Increase

A.4046.33.34460.01 Handicpd Child Education Services \$313,381

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

APPROPRIATION RESOLUTIONS

(To be completed by requesting department)

Total Current Year Cost \$ _____

Total Current Year Revenue \$ _____
and Source

Source of County Funds *(check one)*: ☐ Existing Appropriations, ☐ Contingency,
☐ Transfer of Existing Appropriations, ☐ Additional Appropriations, ☐ Other *(explain)*:

Identify Line Items:

Related Expenses: Amount \$ _____
Nature / Reason:

Anticipated Savings to County: _____

Net County Cost (this year): _____
Over Five Years: _____

Are there any costs associated with this resolution that impact any municipality within Dutchess County?

No Yes (If Yes- Please Explain): _____

Additional Comments/Explanation:

Prepared by: _____ Prepared On: _____

Family and Human Services Committee Roll Call

<i>District</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon	Valdés Smith*	X	
District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie	Atkins*	X	
District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck	Munn*	X	
District 3 - LaGrange	Polasek*	X	
District 12 - East Fishkill	Metzger*	X	
District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie	Arnoff (C)	X	
District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook	Drago	X	
District 24 - Dover and Pawling	House	X	
District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Kaul (VC)	X	
District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill	McHoul	X	
District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Shah	X	
District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie	Winsby	X	
Present: <u>12</u>	Resolution: _____	Total : <u>12</u>	_____
Absent: _____	Motion: _____	Yes	No
Vacant: _____		Abstentions: _____	

2026134 INCREASING COMPENSATION FOR NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION LAW §4410
PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION (PSE) PROVIDERS IN DUTCHESS COUNTY