



June 8, 2010

Dear ARISE Coalition Supporters,

The New York State Education Department has submitted proposals to the New York State Regents that threaten to reduce special education supports and services. Yesterday the [ARISE Coalition](#) wrote to the [VESID Committee of the Regents](#) voicing concerns about the legislative and regulatory changes NYSED is seeking, and urging the Regents to reject the proposals. In our letter, which can be viewed [here](#), we highlighted four specific concerns:

- NYSED has put forth nothing to address fears that the changes they urge will adversely affect students with disabilities;
- NYSED has put forth nothing to demonstrate cost savings to the state if these proposals are enacted;
- NYSED has made a number of these proposals previously and parents of students with disabilities have spoken against a number of them; and
- The timing of the proposals seems intended to short-cut meaningful consideration by the Regents and the legislators, and the opportunity for public comment.

We urge you all to send letters as well to the VESID Committee of the Regents before they meet again on June 21st. You can find their contact information [here](#), and you should feel free to take as much from our letter as feels appropriate to use in your own. Similarly, you may want to look at the UFT's website and consider using their "[Take Action](#)" campaign for an alternate way to send letters to the Regents on NYSED's cost-cutting proposals.

As always, thank you for your support and initiative on behalf of New York's students with disabilities.

Maggie Moroff
Coordinator of [the ARISE Coalition](#)