

ProActive Caring e-News



April 2021

Organizations join forces to help families living with disabilities strategize for future

During April, National Autism Awareness Month, the Center on Aging and Disability Policy (CADP) and Parent Network of Western New York (PNWNY) will continue to help families of children with developmental disabilities develop strategies for planning for the future. The CADP's ProActive Caring Project will offer two webcasts in April as part of *The School & Home Transition Exchange*.

Moderated by Dr. Larry Force and facilitated by school psychologist/advocate Peggy Pisano and parent/advocate Lisa Nathan, the webcasts are held from 7-7:45 p.m. every other Thursday. Everyone is welcome, and the programs are free of charge.

April School & Home Transition Exchange topics

April 8: "Stepping Out of Your Comfort Zone: Putting Your Best Foot Forward in a Stress-Free Way"

April 22: "Getting Ready to Learn: Mindful Transitioning to a School Environment"

To participate, please register in advance by clicking the button below. You only need to register once. Those who have registered will receive a reminder and link for all future events in the *School & Home Transition Exchange*.

[Click here to register](#)

From 7-7:45 pm on alternate weeks, PNWNY's *Got Stress? We Can Help!* series will provide an opportunity for parents, caregivers, and youth with disabilities to meet virtually with other families to learn about mindfulness strategies and other techniques to reduce stress. Again, all are welcome, and participation is free.

Got Stress? We Can Help! **April 15 & April 29**

To register for *Got Stress? We Can Help!* sessions or to obtain more information, [click here](#). Or if you prefer, you may call PNWNY at 716.332.4170 or email info@parentnetworkwny.org.

Calling all advocates!

(Many thanks to Advisory Council Member Lisa Currao for this information)

Legislative committees in the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate are currently reviewing a bill (NYS Assembly Bill No. A01201A; NYS Senate Bill No. S02994A) that would **require school districts to provide educational and support services to students with disabilities until such students turn 23 years of age.**

The legislation covers students who graduated in 2019-2020 (last year) and who graduate in 2020-2021 (this year) and 2021-2022 (next year). It would benefit students affected by the disruption of educational services during the COVID-19 pandemic and would be paid for by federal COVID-19 Relief Funds.

To support this extension of services, please make your voice heard by calling or emailing (1) the bill sponsors (2) the committee chairs and (3) your own New York State legislators. If you have a child who would benefit, be sure to mention your personal situation and include your child's name. [Sample letters](#) are provided for your convenience.



The Legislative Office Building in Albany,

Who is responsible for the bills

NYS Assembly — Bill No. A01201A

The bill, sponsored by Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti, is currently in the Assembly Education Committee.

Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (bill sponsor)

518-455-5753 (Albany office)

914-631-1605 (District office in Tarrytown)

abinantit@nyassembly.gov

Assemblyman Michael Benedetto (Education Committee Chair)

518-455-5296 (Albany Office)

718-892-2235 (District Office in the Bronx)

NYS Senate — Bill No. S02994A

The bill, sponsored by New York State Senator Pete Harckham, is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Sen. Pete Harckham (bill sponsor)

518-455-2340 (Albany office)

914-241-4600 (District office in Peekskill)

harckham@nysenate.gov

Sen. Brad Hoylman (Judiciary Committee Chair)


518-455-2451 (Albany office)

212-633-8052 (District office in Manhattan)

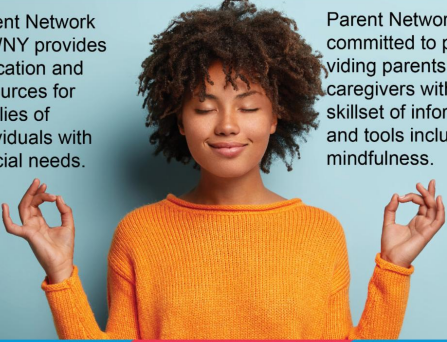
hoylman@nysenate.gov

Use these links to identify your representatives

- [Assembly](#)
- [Senate](#)



Parent Network of WNY provides education and resources for families of individuals with special needs.



Parent Network is committed to providing parents and caregivers with a rich skillset of information and tools including mindfulness.

716-332-4170 | www.parentnetworkwny.org
info@parentnetworkwy.org



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845-849-0838
www.HudsonValleyHealingCenter.com

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The ProActive Caring Program is funded by a grant from the
New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council.



[Proactive Caring Digital Resource Center](#)