

## **Preschool Policy Unit Overview of Responsibilities**

The Preschool Policy Unit is a part of the New York State Education Department's Office of Special Education. The Unit ensures that preschool children with disabilities receive timely and appropriate services in the least restrictive environment and that those services are coordinated with State and local agencies.

Our unit makes every effort to assure preschool students with disabilities receive the services to which they are entitled. We provide direct and timely technical assistance to providers, professionals, and parents. Approval for operating preschool programs (Multi-Disciplinary Evaluations, Special Education Itinerant Services, Special Education in an Integrated Setting and Special Class) is overseen by our office and includes ensuring the processing of applications is managed with fidelity. We work in unison with our Special Education Quality Assurance (SEQA) Offices, Rate Setting Unit and Office of Audit Services. Reviews assure staffing and methodologies evidence high-quality programming, safe educational environments, and that governance structure will provide effective fiscal and program oversight. Our office is often involved in monitoring and updating State regulations and issuing new guidance, including internal changes as well as legislative changes. We participate in development of professional trainings and in meetings with a variety of stakeholders. Our office supports intra and inter agency coordination on preschool initiatives via membership in numerous task forces and organizations related to early childhood education.

Information relating to regulations, policies and guidance related to preschool students with disabilities may be found on our website <http://www.p12.nysed.gov> .