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Report as of June 14, 2021

- Some end of year legislative notes:

Bill S.7192/A.8021 passed last week and it allows for students in individualized education plans to continue receiving their special education services. The focus of this bill is on students with unique needs and abilities who would have turned 21 during the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school years and did not receive their IEP because of the pandemic. This new law will allow students to finish their education plans up until their 23rd birthday.

Bill S.2122-A/A.160-B passed last week. This bill works on removing more lead from school drinking water. It will strengthen the Safe School Drinking Act by reducing the level to 5ppb from 15ppb. This bill provides the most stringent protection for the largest population of students in the country and moves New York closer to the 1ppb level recommended by the American Pediatric Association.

Legislation was put forth by Senator Brisport and Assembly Member Jean-Pierre to improve the educational outcomes for youth who were placed in or under the care of the juvenile justice or department of corrections and community service facilities. The legislation removes barriers for these students, who are under the age of 21, in receiving the high school diplomas that they earned through the educational programs in these facilities based on the determination of the school district in which the facility is located.

Legislation was also passed that waives the annual teacher and principal evaluations for the 2020-2021 school year and separately to accelerate the process by which parents can obtain a hearing before an impartial hearing officer regarding the provisions of special education programs and services for their child.