

Policy & Advocacy WG Agenda

01/20/2026

Welcome

Discussion

- Legislative Breakfast
 - Forum rather than LB
 - More educational event for families to learn about these topics. The legislative aspect is second to the educational aspect.
 - Host similar event every two years
 - Event will (hopefully) be hosted at the same location as the 2024 LB – UFT office
 - 2026 is an election year – Suggestion presented to have the event **before Nov** if we are planning to invite elected officials
 - If any member is newly elected – they won't take the position till January and if we wait to invite the newly elected official, there will not be enough time.
 - Positions on the ballot 2026: U.S. House, Governor, Other state executive, State Senate, State House, Special state legislative, School Boards
 - Tentative dates to bring to UFT:
 - **Late Sept – Early Oct (before the election)** / Mid to late Nov (after the election – standing or newly elected official)
 - Week of 9/21 or **9/28**. Week of **10/5** or 10/12 (Wednesdays or Thursdays would be the better days)
 - Aim to send out invites by the spring /before summer
 - What time of day should the event be held (Morning, afternoon, evening)? Will there be food?
 - 10am – 12pm (will give parents time to drop off their kids, and give enough time to leave and pick up their children
 - Open doors at 9-9:30am for breakfast

- Who do we want to invite?
 - Parents/community members, SIA members, legislators, elementary school families, PTA members, daycare staff and families, preschool families, UNECE providers and families
 - Have partners advertise the event
 - Open to the general public – with restrictions
 - **Participants must register for the event**
 - Register in waves – send to focus group families first then SIA members, Partner families, etc.
- Pendency Research
 - Claudia’s Notes
 - **Important to file for a hearing** – that is the only way to get pendency in NY – it's automatic
 - How does a parent file a hearing?
 - CBST – The CBST is the DOE office that matches students with state-approved non-public schools
 - Pendency lasts until the case is resolved
 - Pendency can be based on an order or IEP
 - Take examples and make a graphic to make it easier for families to understand different pendency situations
 - What stipulations?
- Know Your Rights – CPSE
 - What topics need to be researched?
- EI to CPSE Transition Focus Groups
 - Host focus groups starting now going into the spring.
 - **Possible partnerships:** Project Hospitality, Children’s Aid, UNECE, Central Family Life, Seamen’s Society, YMCA Carter Center, A Chance in Life
 - Organizations w/ standing relationships with families
 - Claudia and Diana can meet w/ Vanessa to discuss the dates for the focus groups/EI workshops and reach out to the partners for locations
 - Focus questions for the families: HOMEWORK FOR NEXT MEETING

Closing

- Next Meeting: February 17, 2026 @ 10:30am