



DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK

New York's Protection & Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North Colonie School District Takes Corrective Actions to Address Findings of Abuse and Neglect of Students with Disabilities at Blue Creek Elementary School

Albany, NY, April 21, 2017 – Disability Rights New York (DRNY) issued a public report documenting abuse and neglect in a special education classroom at Blue Creek School and the corrective action taken by the North Colonie School District (North Colonie) to address its more troubling practices. DRNY launched an investigation in 2013 after receiving multiple complaints of improper use of physical restraints, failure to notify parents and guardians of the use of physical restraints, and other misconduct threatening the safety and wellbeing of elementary age students with significant disabilities at Blue Creek Elementary School. North Colonie initially refused DRNY access to the school, students, and requested records and DRNY brought a federal lawsuit *Disability Rights N.Y. v. N. Colonie Bd. of Educ.*. In 2016, the District Court upheld DRNY's investigative authority.

“DRNY uncovered serious systemic practices that put students with disabilities at risk of physical, emotional, and educational harm.” said Timothy A. Clune, Esq., DRNY Executive Director. “North Colonie has taken substantial steps to remedy the more egregious issues and DRNY will continue to monitor North Colonie to ensure the protection of students with disabilities.”

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