



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

DEC - 4 1998

Dr. Ellenmorris Tiegerman  
Executive Director  
School for Language and Communication Development  
23 51 Jerusalem Ave.  
North Bellmore, NY 11710-1822

Dear Dr. Tiegerman:

This letter is in response to your letter of October 6, 1998, in which you continue to allege that all the tuition costs related to placements in "special class in an integrated setting" (SCIS) are not fully reimbursed. As contained in your letter of June 17, 1998, the "tuition costs" to which you refer are those costs for nondisabled preschool-aged children attending the School for Language and Communication Development. Your position is that a public agency should pay tuition costs for nondisabled preschool-aged children to attend your school because it is the nondisabled children who make the "special class in an integrated setting" possible for preschool-aged children with disabilities.

The Office of Special Education Programs responded in September, 1998, to your concern regarding this issue. In meeting the free appropriate public education (FAPE) requirements in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (the Act), States must ensure that a full continuum of alternative placement options, including integrated placement options, are available to children with disabilities. Thus, States must ensure that an integrated placement is available if a placement team determines that a preschool-aged child with a disability needs an integrated placement. The Act does not prescribe specific means by which States make all the necessary placement options available. If, for example, the integrated placement is obtained by placing the child in a private school, then all tuition costs associated with that placement for the period of time necessary to implement the child's IEP are at no cost to the child's parents. The State has no responsibility to pay tuition costs for nondisabled preschool-aged children in order to create educational settings where IEPs for preschool-aged children can be implemented. Local educational agencies are not obligated to place preschool-aged children with disabilities in any particular private school if that private school does not provide the educational setting required in a child's IEP.

Page 2 - Dr. Ellenmorris Tiegerman

I hope this information addresses your concern about payment of costs for nondisabled preschool-aged children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Hehir".

Thomas Hehir  
Director  
Office of Special Education Programs

cc: Mr. Lawrence Gloeckler