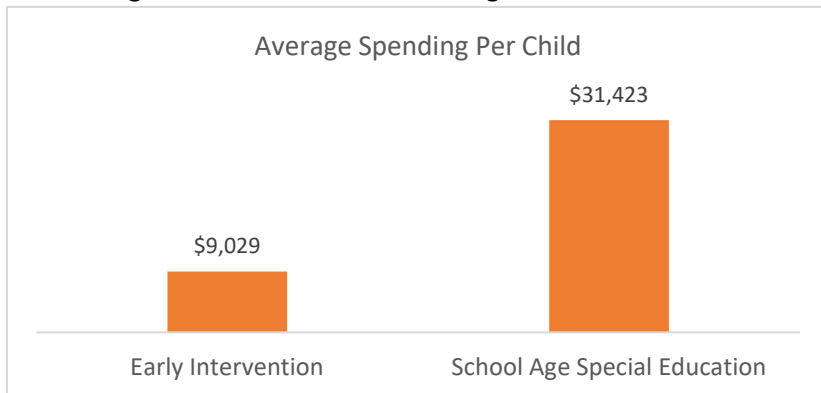


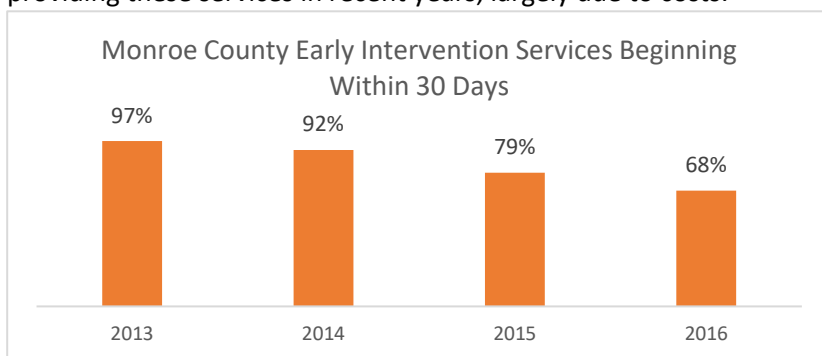
Children Can't Wait: Healthy development now!

Early help leads to later success

- Research shows that when services are available early and on time, children with developmental delays or disabilities are more likely to develop to their full potential, and the cost is significantly less than waiting until children reach school-age.



- Unfortunately, an increasing number of young children in Monroe County and across the state are unable to receive the special services they need due to a shortage of providers and therapists. Almost a third of children in New York State in 2016 had to wait at least 30 days for services to begin.
- Low reimbursement rates for these services are a significant cause of this delay. Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Speech Therapists who work with young children are paid much less than their peers who work in schools and hospitals.
- A number of well-known local respected providers have stopped providing these services in recent years, largely due to costs.



Recommendations:

New York State should

- Raise reimbursement rates for Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education services;
- Establish funding equity for the 2 systems, Early Intervention and Preschool Education.

