



February 8, 2010

Dear ARISE Coalition Supporters,

First, thank you to all of you who have already shared your thoughts, dreams, and concerns about special education in New York City with us.

Next, I'm writing today to ask for more. The members of the Coalition would like to hear from all of you, parents, educators, and advocates, about your experiences with technology, specifically assistive technology (AT) in the New York City schools. This is an open question, and there are no right or wrong answers. Generally we are looking to find out:

- ✓ If many of your children have been provided with technology to help them access the general education curriculum or meet their individualized goals?
- ✓ If so, was it your idea or did someone at the school suggest it to you?
- ✓ If your children have been using AT, has it helped, and has it changed over time? How?
- ✓ What are your thoughts on how technology could be used in our public schools to help more students, with and without disabilities, access their daily lessons?
- ✓ Do you have ideas about how the ARISE Coalition could work to assure better, more equitable use of AT in the schools?
- ✓ Is there anything else you think we should know about technology in the schools?

Please don't feel you need to write to us with anything polished. We're not asking for "testimony," and we won't publish anything you say without your permission. If we have questions, we'll reach back out to you.

Your input is extremely valuable to us. Our efforts at the Coalition are intended to bring reform to New York's schools to benefit students with special needs. The only way we can assure that reform is meaningful, and the results positive, is when you continue to add your voices to the cause and inform our work.

Best,

Maggie Moroff
Coordinator, The ARISE Coalition
www.arisecoalition.org
151 West 30th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10001
Tel: (212) 822-9523

 please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to