



## **RoRo's Gift Nomination Requirements**

At this time RoRo's gift(s) will only be offered locally.

The following areas are eligible: Buffalo Public School Districts & Southtowns Public School Districts.

- One classroom within the districts will be chosen after careful consideration/review from the nomination form

**Our hope is to have great success with our giveback project allowing us to open it up not only to other districts in Western New York, but to the entire country. For this project to be sustainable there are eligibility requirements that need to be met when nominating a classroom or therapist. Please note that these guidelines are currently set for NYS Educators and Therapists within the Special Education Community. They are subject to change as this project develops.**

**Please see the below detailed information for additional information.**

### **Classroom Requirements:**

Classrooms must fall under one of NYS guidelines regarding types of special education classrooms. For example:

#### **Pull out/Push In Services:**

The least restrictive service that schools can provide to a struggling child is a pull-out or push in service. AIS (Academic Intervention Service) reading, or math, speech, physical therapy, and resource room all fall into this category. Many schools will try one of these services first to see if a little extra help is all the child needs to catch up. With these services, a service provider from the school or an outside agency will either pull the child out of class for a short session or push into the class to assist the classroom teacher. These pull-outs or push-ins usually occur two to five days per week for about forty minutes at a time.

#### **The inclusion (or integrated) classroom:**

If a child is not showing success with the pull-out or push in service, the district might recommend an integrated classroom. This is a general education classroom with two teachers and sometimes an aid or a teaching assistant. Districts vary in how this model is set up. But, the class usually contains a small number of students identified as needing special services and the remaining students being general education students. Both teachers are there to service the entire class. Although in some models, the special education teacher may pull out the students with special needs for private instruction for a portion of the day. This model allows students with special needs to participate in a general education classroom while receiving individualized instruction to meet their needs.

#### **The Self-contained classroom:**

The self-contained classroom is the next step in special education services. These classrooms are usually made up of 4-12 students with one special education teacher and a few aids or teaching assistants. In a self-contained classroom, the instruction is individualized to the specific needs of each student. Each student's goals are worked on every day along with the grade level curriculum. Many schools integrate students in a self-contained classroom with the general population for specials like gym, art, and lunch. They may also work with a cooperating general education class for special projects or trips. Some self-contained classrooms have students working towards a general high school diploma while others may be more geared towards life skills. This depends on the specific disabilities of the students in each classroom.

### **Therapist's requirements (OT, PT, SLP, MT & Vision)**

## **Occupational Therapist**

You must have obtained a graduate degree in Occupational Therapy from a New York State registered licensure qualifying institute or program, a program accredited by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and/or NBCOT. Occupational therapists must pass the NBCOT OTR examination and occupational therapy assistants must pass the COTA examination of the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT).

For more information regarding OT/NYS registration please visit:

<https://aota.otjoblink.org/> and <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/ot/otlic.htm>

## **Physical Therapist**

You must have obtained a master's degree or higher from an accredited educational institution; have met all educational requirements for licensure as a PT as law states in NYS. In addition, you must be registered with The American Physical Therapy Association and licensed to work with Special abilities individuals.

For more information regarding PT/NYS registration please visit:

<https://www.apta.org/> and <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/pt/ptlic.htm>

## **Speech Pathologist:**

You must have obtained a graduate degree in speech-language pathology from a New York State registered licensure qualifying program, a program accredited by the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA), or the equivalent. To be considered equivalent, your educational program must culminate in a graduate degree from a college or university acceptable to the Department. It must include a practicum and 75 semester hours of courses as specified below. At least 36 of the 75 semester hours must be at the graduate level.

For a complete list of the equivalency please visit: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/slpa/speechlic.htm>

In addition to the above requirements nominees/recipients must hold both SLP Licensure and TSSH/TSSLD Certification.

For a complete list of certifications please visit: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/slpa/speechcredential.htm>

## **Teacher Requirements:**

Eligible nominees/recipients must have received a bachelor's and/or master's degree in special education through a state-approved teacher preparation program that includes all the pedagogical and content area classes necessary for licensure. They must have also passed all NYS Teacher Certification Exams and hold a valid NYS initial (provisional) or professional (permanent) teacher certification.

In addition to the above the nominee/recipient must work in and/or support a special education classroom (ie. Lead teacher, inclusion/push in support.)

For additional information regarding NYS testing requirements and lists of certifications please visit:

[What Tests Do I Need to Take? \(nesinc.com\)](http://www.nesinc.com)

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