



December 11, 2020

Greetings --

Next Tuesday, December 15th, I am hosting a special virtual panel with leading reading experts from the [Haskins Global Literacy Hub](#) to learn about free resources to help support your child’s learning during COVID-19. The Haskins Global Literacy Hub is an international and interdisciplinary collaboration of researchers, educators, and education technology specialists, working to improve the reading development of children and youth across cultures, languages, and continents. See full information on the flyer below and register for the event [here](#):

## Building a Reading Brain at Home: Expert tips and free resources during COVID-19

Join Assemblymember Robert Carroll, and a panel of leading literacy experts to hear about free resources to help support your child learning during COVID 19.

This is a **free** virtual event, open to all New York City residents.

**Date:** Tuesday, December 15th      **Time:** 7:00 PM-8:30 PM

**RSVP Here:** <https://southportcolab.regfox.com/building-a-reading-brain-at-home>

### FEATURED PANELISTS

**Dr. Benjamin Powers** is Director of the Haskins Global Literacy Hub and an affiliated research scientist at Haskins Laboratories. Benjamin Powers, DBA, is a practitioner, researcher, and advocate who develops opportunities to integrate research and practice for children and adults with reading difficulties and attention issues.

**Dr. Maureen W. Lovett** is an Associate Director of the Haskins Global Literacy Hub. She is a Senior Scientist Emeritus in the Neurosciences and Mental Health Program of Toronto's Hospital For Sick Children and Professor Emerita of Pediatrics and Medical Sciences at the University of Toronto.

**Dr. John J. Russell** is the Special Projects Advisor to, and former Director of The Windward Institute. Dr. Russell is also an Associate Director of the Haskins Global Literacy Hub. Before leading The Windward Institute, Dr. Russell served 13 years as head of The Windward School and served for 11 years as superintendent of schools in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York.

If you would like additional information or have questions, please email me at [Carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Carrollr@nyassembly.gov).

## Letter in Support of Special Education Programs

After hearing from a number of parents of children with autism and related disabilities, Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon and I sent a letter this week to the Mayor and DOE Chancellor calling on them to reinstate in-person special education programs for middle and high school programs.

All students are facing extreme challenges during COVID-19 but these students have especially unique needs and require in-person instruction in order to effectively learn. They have struggled for months in front of computer screens that do not provide the type of kinesthetic social instruction that they need. It is past time for Mayor de Blasio and Chancellor Carranza to fulfill their duty to these children and to give them the education they are legally entitled to. See the full letter that we sent below:



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December 7, 2020

Mayor Bill de Blasio  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Richard Carranza  
New York City Chancellor  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Chancellor Carranza,

We are writing to bring to your attention our concern and the concern of parents and guardians of children with autism and related disabilities, currently enrolled in ASD Nest, ASD Horizon, ACES and bilingual special education Middle and High School programs. These schools are currently remote and there is no set date to reopen these highly specialized, unique and necessary programs. This is unacceptable and is in violation of the federal and state laws.

For the past nine months these students have struggled to learn remotely, with little to no interaction with peers or direct instruction from teachers and service providers. For example, the ASD Nest program is built around social emotional support and multi-sensory learning. Opportunities for meaningful social engagement are simply not deliverable via distance learning. Moreover, these students are not being taught in a way consistent with their learning styles or Individual Education Plans.

Thousands of students with autism, for whom the ASD Nest and ASD Horizon programs have been nothing short of a lifeline, are falling through the cracks, as are children in the other specialized programs.

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 557, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-5377, FAX: 518-455-5592  
DISTRICT OFFICE: 416 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11215 • 718-788-7221, FAX: 718-965-9378  
EMAIL: [carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:carrollr@nyassembly.gov)

We along with parents and caregivers are urging you both to acknowledge and prioritize the needs of this vulnerable population. We request that the Middle and High Schools housing these programs reopen immediately and for all students in these specialized programs to have the opportunity to attend school in person, five days per week.

Regards,

Handwritten signature of Robert C. Carroll.

Assemblymember Robert C. Carroll

Handwritten signature of Jo Anne Simon.

Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon



## Winter Clothing and Toy Drive

I am sponsoring a winter clothing and toy drive to benefit CHiPS and the residents of CAMBA Shelters. All clothing and toys must be new. We are collecting the items at my district office at 416 7th Avenue, Monday - Friday from 9:30am - 4:30pm until December 22nd. A staff member will meet you at the door to collect the item. More details below:



**Assemblymember Robert Carroll has partnered with CHiPS and CAMBA to collect donations of new toys and new winter outerwear for children, women and men in our community.**

**\*\*Due to Covid-19, all toys and clothing must be NEW\*\***

Children ages 0-18: *toys and winter outerwear*

Women: *winter outerwear of gloves, hats, scarfs and socks*

Men: *hooded sweatshirts in dark colors in all sizes*

**Please bring donations to Assemblymember Carroll's District Office** at 416 7th Avenue, in Park Slope, weekdays from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm from now until Tuesday, December 22. *A staff member will meet you at the door.*

For more information or any questions about this or any constituent issue, please call the District Office at 718-788-7221 or email [CarrollR@nyassembly.gov](mailto:CarrollR@nyassembly.gov).

If you would like additional information or have questions about these or any other issue, please email me at [Carrollr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Carrollr@nyassembly.gov) or call my district office at (718) 788-7221.

Stay safe,

Bobby

**Assemblymember Robert Carroll**

**416 7th Avenue**

**Brooklyn, NY 11215**

**(718) 788-7221**

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**(518) 455 5377**

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