



OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER
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**COMPTROLLER MENDOZA MARKS WORLD AUTISM DAY
WITH VISIT TO WILLOWGLEN ACADEMY**

This is no time to cut funding for autism programs, Comptroller says

FREEPORT, Ill. – Illinois Comptroller Susana A. Mendoza visited the Willowglen Academy Monday to mark World Autism Day and to see the amazing work the non-profit does with children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. Comptroller Mendoza cheered a music and dance performance by the academy’s students and listened to the administrators’ concerns about state funding.

Monday marks three years since Governor Bruce Rauner [cut funding for state autism programs](#) on World Autism Day. The Governor has routinely proposed cuts in funding for autism and other state programs every year up to and including the budget he proposed in February for Fiscal Year 2019.

“The dedicated efforts of staff like those here at Willowglen to help Illinois residents with special needs lead fulfilling lives and receive dignified care deserve our enthusiastic support and should not be the first line of attack to solve state budget problems,” Comptroller Mendoza said. “My office will continue to prioritize state payments to the most vulnerable in Illinois.”



