

<b>S-6775-A</b>	<b>Maltese</b>	<b>Education Committee</b>
<b>A-9682-A</b>	<b>Lancman</b>	<b>Ways and Means Committee</b>

**PROVISIONS OF BILL:**

This bill would require the New York City school district to establish an emergency alert notification system using a combination of text messages, emails and phone calls to provide staff, parents and the community notification and instructions in emergency situations occurring within public school buildings. Participation by staff, parents and community residents is voluntary.

**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:**

It is essential that parents, staff and the community be given notice and instructions in the event of an emergency in our public schools. Text message, email and phone based emergency notification systems have proved critical in containing emergencies and preserving public safety.

Recent violent incidences and other emergencies on K-12 grades and college campuses show that a dependable system for disseminating information efficiently during school emergencies is important for protecting students, faculty and staff during incidents which pose a threat to their safety and health.

St. John's University recently successfully deployed a text message based alert system to alert and instruct students, faculty and staff when a gunman was discovered on the university's Queens Campus. Almost every SUNY and CUNY campus has or is implementing an emergency alert notification system. New York State's NY-Alert program has over one million enrollees and New York City is already conducting a pilot community alert system.

Implementing a program like this in New York City public schools would be fairly easy insofar as New York City has the potential to plug into the existing NY-Alert system run by the New York State Emergency Management office.

While participation by staff, parents and community residents is voluntary, we believe that a program like this will be welcomed by everyone.

**NYSUT AND ITS NEW YORK CITY AFFILIATE, THE UFT STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION AND ENCOURAGE SWIFT ACTION BY THE LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT THIS BILL THIS YEAR.**