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MEMO IN SUPPORT

A. 1245-A by M. of A. Lancman
S. 3254-A by M. of S. Addabbo

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the “public schools emergency alert act.”

The New York City Department of Education **SUPPORTS A. 1245-A/S. 3254-A**, which would enact the “Public Schools Emergency Alert Act.”

The proposed legislation would ensure that an emergency alert system is established for New York City schools that would be available to families of New York City students as well as interested staff and elected officials. Such a system would be used to provide notification of emergency incidents that may pose a threat to the health or safety of students, faculty and staff in New York City school facilities.

While the Department of Education has a district and school safety plan in place that addresses emergencies in New York City schools, the proposed alert system would allow interested families to access the most up to date information through a variety of electronic means, such as electronic text messages, phone calls or electronic mail. The decision to participate in the alert system would be voluntary for parents, staff and elected officials.

The Department of Education supports this measure as another means of providing families, staff and our elected officials timely information when the rare threats to student safety are identified. The ability to access an emergency notification system will offer parents a measure of security and comfort that their children will be safe in our schools.

The Mayor has supported this type of alert system through the recent development of **Notify NYC**. The Department of Education will be able to access this system to support the ‘Public Schools Emergency Alert Act’.

For these reasons, the New York City Department of Education urges the Assembly to **APPROVE A.1245-A/ S.3254-A**.

The New York City Department of Education
Urges the Legislature to **APPROVE**
the “Public Schools Emergency Alert Act”
A. 1245-A/ S. 3254-A.