



New York State Emergency Management Office
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David A. Paterson, Governor

John R. Gibb, Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Assemblyman Rory Lancman
FROM: John R. Gibb, Director *JG*
SUBJECT: Public Schools Emergency Alert Act
DATE: February 17, 2009

I am pleased to support A01245, the Public Schools Emergency Alert Act, which you have introduced. The ability for schools to provide emergency public alerting, during times when emergency conditions are impacting schools, is critically important. The advent of new communications technologies including cell phones, text messaging and email, has increased the opportunity to provide emergency public information and the parents, faculty, and community members targeted by this legislation will be well served by public schools taking advantage of these new capabilities.

The need for this type of alerting system has been demonstrated repeatedly locally and throughout the country. NY-ALERT, the state's all-hazard alert and notification system, is currently supporting most of our SUNY and CUNY campuses and is a ready example of how these systems can support the education community.

Again, I fully support A01245 and urge its swift passage. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information.