



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

New York State Senate and Assembly
S3254-A (Addabbo) A1245-A (Lanceman)
April 8th, 2009

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The *Council of School Supervisors & Administrators (CSA)* supports S3254-A / A1245-A which would amend the education law to enact the “Public Schools Emergency Alert Act.”

This bill would implement important new measures to notify parents, staff, and community members of emergencies within our schools. This bill is a practical new means to help ensure the safety of our school personnel. If enacted into law, this bill would apply modern communications technology to send notice of emergencies as quickly as possible. We strongly recommend the coordination and operation of the emergency notification technology be carried out by the central Department of Education and/or at district offices.

Students and staff in higher education institutions in New York and elsewhere around the country have already benefited from the important protections of similar alert systems. Further, the State’s “All-Hazard Alert and Notification” (NY-Alert) system now provides critical emergency related information, disseminated through various communication systems, and has already proven to be highly effective.

CSA is local 1 of AFSA, the American Federation of School Administrators, a unit of the AFL-CIO. CSA is also part of NYSFSA, the New York State Federation of School Administrators. CSA represents nearly 6,000 Principals, Assistant Principals, Supervisors, Education Administrators, Day Care Directors and Assistant Directors, as well as 9,000 retirees and spouses.