



## NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

Assemblyman Rory Lancman, 25th District, Queens

Press Release: August 26, 2008

# Assembly Passes “Public Schools Emergency Alert Act” Sponsored by Lancman, Weprin and Nolan

## *Senate Has One More Chance To Act*

Assemblyman Rory Lancman (D-Queens), Assemblyman Mark Weprin (D-Queens) and Education Committee Chairwoman Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan (D-Queens) announce passage of the Public Schools Emergency Alert Act ([A.9682A](#)) in the Assembly on June 17. The State Senate has one more chance to act and pass the senate version of this legislation ([S.6775-A](#)), sponsored by State Senators Serphin Maltese, Frank Padavan, Andrew Lanza and Martin Golden, when it reconvenes in July.

This bill would require New York City to establish an emergency alert notification system using a combination of text messages, emails and phone calls in order to provide staff, parents and the community notification and instructions in emergency situations occurring within public school buildings. The cost to establish such a system is minimal, particularly since the New York State Emergency Management Office will allow New York City plug into the existing NY-Alert system.

“It is essential for the safety of our schools and the children they serve that parents and staff be given accurate, clear information when emergency situations occur, which is why New York State, New York City, SUNY, CUNY and private colleges are all implementing emergency notification systems,” said Lancman. “Our public schools deserve the same system, so that parents are not left in the dark when emergencies such as the Glen Oaks campus lockdown happen.”

“I am very happy that this important legislation has passed the Assembly,” said Catherine Nolan, Chair of the Assembly’s Standing Committee on Education.

“The technology exists so the schools should be using it! Every parent has a right to know when there is an emergency at school,” said Assemblyman Mark Weprin

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