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**OEM TO PRESENT READY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARD TO
PS / IS 18 THE PARK TERRACE SCHOOL**

*Over 17,000 Students Trained in Emergency Preparedness in More Than 30 Schools Across the
Five Boroughs*

The New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Department of Education (DOE) presented today the Ready School of The Year Award to PS / IS 18, the Park Terrace School, for their on-going commitment to helping teach students about the importance of preparing for emergencies.

"The *Ready Schools* program has been an extremely successful and fun way to teach children the importance of preparing for emergencies," said OEM Commissioner Joseph F. Bruno. "And we've seen that preparing kids for emergencies has an added benefit - many students take the lessons they learn at these workshops and teach them to their families."

Ready Schools is part of the *Ready New York for Kids* program, which launched in 2007 with the introduction of two interactive emergency preparedness guides for students. In spring 2009, OEM and the Department of Education (DOE) expanded the initiative, introducing a pilot program to teach the lessons from Ready New York for Kids in schools.

Under Children First, we are committed to providing a well-rounded education," said Deputy Chancellor of Infrastructure and Planning Kathleen Grimm. "To supplement classroom work, we have been working with the Office of Emergency Management and our schools to incorporate the *Ready Schools* guides and the curriculum to help students in school and at home."

After a successful pilot program in Brooklyn, OEM and DOE launched Ready Schools in all five boroughs at the start of the 2009/2010 school year. The most recent event was held at PS 105 in the Bronx during Career Day, where students were taught the fundamentals of emergency preparedness.

Ready Schools focuses on three key messages:

- **Get Ready: Make a Plan** – Have at least two phone numbers--one local and one out-of-state number that you can call in an emergency--and practice the plan with adults in your home.

- **Get Set: *Prepare a Stay at Home Kit*** – During emergencies that require you to stay at home, it is important to have extra food and water for everyone in the house and a battery-operated radio for news updates.
- **Get Ready to Go: *Pack a Go Bag*** – During emergencies that require you to leave your home, have a Go Bag with emergency supplies.

Ready Schools and *Ready New York for Kids* are part of OEM's *Ready New York* preparedness program. *Ready New York* has grown dramatically since OEM released its first household preparedness guide in 2003. The program now includes several multi-language publications, public service announcements, a video, an advertising campaign, expanded web content, a speakers' bureau, a reprinting program, corporate partnerships, and extensive community outreach. Ready New York guides are available in up to 23 languages and in Braille and on audio tape.

According to OEM's third annual preparedness survey, conducted in 2009, roughly six in 10 New Yorkers say they are prepared for an emergency, such as a natural disaster, fire, or power outage. The most common reason New Yorkers do not prepare for emergencies is that they have not considered it.

For more information about the *Ready Schools* initiative and the *Ready New York* program visit www.nyc.gov/oem or call 311.

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