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**OEM TRAINS MORE THAN 750 STATEN ISLAND STUDENTS IN
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Ready Schools Event Largest in Program's History

The New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) today trained more than 750 students at Staten Island's P.S. 41, The New Dorp School, in emergency preparedness. The event was part of *Ready Schools*, a joint effort between OEM and the Department of Education (DOE) to teach students about the importance of preparing for emergencies through in-school and after-school workshops and presentations. Open to all elementary school students at P.S. 41, The New Dorp School, the event was the largest *Ready Schools* training to be offered since the initiative was launched earlier this year.

"The *Ready Schools* program has already allowed us to teach thousands of children about 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, since many students take the lessons they learn at these workshops and teach them to their families."

"This administration is committed to providing a well-rounded education in a safe, nurturing environment," Deputy Chancellor of Infrastructure and Planning Kathleen Grimm said. "We also want to make sure our school community is prepared for emergency situations at home as well. To this end, we worked with OEM on emergency preparedness program for our children."

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 DOE expanded the initiative, introducing a pilot program to teach the lessons in the *Ready New York for Kids* guides to students in schools. 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.

This school year OEM plans to hold more than 100 *Ready Schools* events and train more than 25,000 students about the importance of preparing for emergencies. In December alone, OEM plans to host 15 *Ready Schools* events and reach more than 1,800 students.

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, everyone should 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 nyc.gov/oem or call 311.

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