

**DEAR EDUCATOR:**

**N**ew York City has worked hard to prepare for emergencies. In recent years government agencies, corporations, health-care organizations, small businesses, and many other groups have all begun to plan for the unexpected. Now it's time for all of us in our local communities to also prepare to be ready in any emergency, whether it's a house fire, hurricane, power outage, or terrorist attack. Age-appropriate student/family guides are being distributed to elementary, middle, and high schools in all five boroughs in New York City. In your school you can play an important role in helping your students, their families, and everyone in your school community know what to do in an emergency. Please distribute these materials within your school and encourage students to bring them home to share with their families. The sample "readiness" activities below and on the following page can be used in language arts, science, or math classes to provoke discussion.

Let's Get Ready, New York! It's up to all of us.



City of New York  
**Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor**  
Joseph F. Bruno, Commissioner  
NYC Office of Emergency Management  
Joel I. Klein, Chancellor  
NYC Department of Education

### **Suggested Lesson Connections for Grades 6-12**

#### **Science Connection: Weather Watch**

Ask students to read the accompanying **Get Ready NY** magazine, and make a list of all the different kinds of weather they find mentioned (hurricane, flood, snowstorm, etc). Students can then participate in a class-wide "Weather Watch" for the city of New York. Students observe the weather (for a set period of time, or on an ongoing basis) and record their observations in a journal. Post students' weather observations on a "NYC Weather Watch" bulletin board.

#### **Math Connection: How Big Is 8 Million?**

The city of New York has over 8 million people, making it the most populous city in the United States! Guide students to understand what large numbers look like by presenting them with the following mathematical questions:

1. How many times could you travel around the world in 8,000,000 miles? 2. Where would you be if you traveled 8,000,000 miles into space? 3. Pick a large sporting arena (like Yankee or Shea Stadium). Find out the arena's maximum capacity. Now calculate how many filled arenas you would need to have 8,000,000 people all together.

**Teacher:** Before working with your students on these materials, make copies and distribute this reproducible to let them practice their letter-writing skills and express their views as to why it's important to plan for emergencies. After they've received and read the **Get Ready NY** guide, make copies and distribute this reproducible a second time. Ask them to incorporate what they've learned by working with you on this program.

# It's Important to Plan

Emergencies mean different things to different people. Write a letter to your family explaining why, in your view, it is important to plan for an emergency.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Family,

Sincerely,