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Levy: Heed lessons for school security

By CARL CAMPANILE
Education Reporter

Schools Chancellor Harold Levy said the Board of Education needs to upgrade its security and evacuation plans following the World Trade Center tragedy.

Levy said existing safety plans were not designed to deal with a terrorist attack affecting numerous schools at one time.

He noted that an elementary school in the TriBeCa area was supposed to evacuate to Stuyvesant HS during an emergency, under their safety plans.

But Stuyvesant — at Chambers and West streets — also had to be evacuated, because its students and staff were imperiled by tumbling buildings.

"We've got to have new safety plans," Levy said, following a tour of PS 3 in Greenwich Village with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and former President Bill Clinton. PS 3 is sharing space with "ground zero" students from PS 89 and PS 150, whose buildings have been temporarily taken out of service.

The chancellor announced he was creating a new panel of outside experts to address the safety issue.

United Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said that thanks to the "common sense" of administration and faculty, the seven schools near the site were safely evacuated.

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