NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

NEW YORK POST, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2001

Alarming number of first-time teachers

EXCLUSIVE

By KENNETH LOVETT
Post Correspondent

ALBANY — While Big Apple students continue to struggle, city schools have been hiring more rookie teachers than ever before, says a startling new state Education Department report.

The draft report, obtained by The Post, shows that the percentage of new hires in 1999 without any prior teaching experience was 61.5 percent.

That was up from 45.5 percent in 1985.

The frightening numbers were contained in a report written by Deputy Education Commissioner Gerald Patton outlining the problems schools in the city and across the state are having attracting certified teachers.

Despite city Schools Chancellor Harold Levy's multimillion-dollar campaign to recruit experienced international teachers and career-changers, a record 17 percent of city teachers this year are uncertified. The city is under orders from the state to ensure that all its instructors are certified by the fall of 2003.

Making matters more difficult, almost 42 percent of novice teachers in the city leave the profession after six years, with 25 percent getting out after just three years, the report says. And thousands of instructors are preparing to retire over the next few years — meaning there will be a need for even more new teachers.

CITY_21MC100_013367795

NYC-WTC_000416541