NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

NEWSDAY, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2001

Levy Lifts Ban on School Field Trips

By Nick Chiles
STAFF WRITER

Schools Chancellor Harold Levy announced that he has lifted the prohibitions on class trips for city students — and he did it yesterday surrounded by grinning youngsters at the Museum of Natural History, the city's No. 1 trip destination.

"I am encouraging all principals and superintendents to make sure all class trips happen," Levy said at a news conference inside the city landmark. "Arts are an integral part of New York City."

Immediately after Sept. 11, school field trips in the city were suspended. The cessation had a ripple effect throughout the city, substantially reducing the number of visitors to many cultural institutions. A report released yesterday by the nonprofit Center for an Urban Future estimated that the Sept. 11 attack will cost about $125 million in lost income and additional expenses to the city's arts organizations in the six months after the attack.

Two weeks after Sept. 11, the chancellor left it up to local superintendents to decide whether students could leave their school districts. Most of them chose to limit trips to locations within the districts.

Ellen Futter, president of the Museum of Natural History, said the museum is visited by about 300,000 students a year. She said that number is down 70 percent since Sept. 11. Representatives from city arts and cultural institutions said yesterday that their visits from children are down by 50 to 70 percent.

CITY_21MC100_01336789 2

NYC-WTC_000416616