

in case you missed it . . .

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
THIS WEEK IN THE NEWS

Week of August 25, 2008

this week at the council

City Plans for Revamping Failing Area Middle Schools

After last year's middle school task force recommendations, the city is moving forward with efforts to put more money into the area's lowest rated schools. [The New York Daily News reports](#) that under the Campaign for Middle School Success, grants will go to the schools so they can follow a "blueprint" for success culled from top programs citywide. "If we lose students in middle school, it is often a short road to high school dropout and [a] lifetime of limited opportunity," said City Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan). The campaign, announced Tuesday and slated to be presented to principals this morning, focuses mainly on lifting the 219 worst schools, which are eligible to share \$12 million in "improvement" grants. Another grant is available just to schools in northern Manhattan, and the City Council will continue distributing \$5 million to 51 schools - 40 of which saw test score improvement this year. All schools, though, will receive the "blueprint" that lays out programs working at successful schools, such as offering all middle schoolers access to high school-level Regents courses by 2010.

State Bill for Recycling headed to the Governor

In June, the Assembly and State Senate agreed on a bill requiring large retail stores to collect shoppers' used plastic bags and return them for recycling. Stores must also provide reusable bags for sale. The bill would set up the strictest program in the nation - except for one: the recycling law in effect since January in New York City. The statewide measure would override the city's and exempt smaller retailers, between 5,000 and 10,000 square feet. Before this bill hits Gov. David Paterson's desk, the parties should work out a compromise that allows New York City to keep its burgeoning program in place. Statewide bills sometimes provide exceptions for the city. And in this case, it acknowledges that the city's commercial real estate market lends itself to smaller stores. [Newsday ran this editorial.](#)

next week at the council

- **City Council Members welcome students and families back to school this Tuesday, September 2**
- **Next Thursday, September 4, Council will vote on construction site safety at the Stated Meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 1:30 pm**
- **Want to receive a complete calendar, right to your email? [Contact Us!](#)**



THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
CHRISTINE C. QUINN, SPEAKER