

CITY OF NEW YORK  
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION  
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**EDWARD F. STANCIK**  
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

**News Release**  
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**Home Instruction Teacher Cheats Children Out  
of an Education and the BOE Out of Money**

Edward F. Stancik, Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District, today released the results of his investigation regarding fraud committed by fifty-four year old Frank Accardi, a Home Instruction Teacher, in District 31 in Staten Island. Home Instructors teach students who are unable to attend school, individually either in the child's home or another facility. Accardi was paid \$55,023 for the 2000/2001 school year, much of it for "providing" home instruction that never took place.

According to Special Commissioner Stancik, instead of working his required six-and-a-half hour days, Accardi often spent time at home or at "Grandma's Bagels," a store in which he had an ownership interest. SCI investigators followed Accardi and recorded the teacher on video behind the counter at his bagel store at times he was supposed to be teaching children.

Accardi falsified instruction records to further his scheme.

Accardi also kept students on his schedule even after they returned to regular school classes. In one case, Accardi pressured a parent of one of his "former" students to call his supervisor and tell her that the child was being pulled out of school early everyday so Accardi could teach the boy. Accardi threatened the father that if he had to take the student off his schedule, it would be difficult to get another instructor if he needed it in the future.

In a letter to Chancellor Harold Levy, Commissioner Stancik recommended termination of Accardi's employment and that he be barred from working for the BOE in the future. The case was also referred to the Staten Island District Attorney's Office.