FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2006

2005 Statistical Report of the Special Commissioner

Additional information regarding the statistics will be available at 11:00 a.m. at the Office of the Special Commissioner, 80 Maiden Lane, 20th Floor

RICHARD J. CONDON, Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (SCI), today announced that the number of investigations conducted by his office in 2005, involving the NYC Department of Education (DOE), increased as compared to the previous year.

In 2005, SCI opened 568 investigations, a 30% increase over the 479 investigations opened in the previous calendar year. During the same period, SCI closed 533 cases and referred its findings and recommendations to the DOE. As a result of these investigations, SCI arrested 25 individuals in 2005 as compared to the previous calendar year when 8 school system-related arrests were made. SCI also recommended that the employment of 124 employees be terminated and that other disciplinary action be taken against 197 additional employees.

The number of sexual misconduct complaints also increased from the previous year. In 2005, SCI received 525 sexual misconduct complaints, an increase of 20.7% over the 435 complaints lodged in 2004. SCI opened investigations relating to 213 of these complaints and substantiated 92 of them as compared to 69 cases in 2004, an increase of 33.3%. Sexual allegations include criminal acts, inappropriate relationships with students who have reached the age of consent, and physical and verbal harassment of a sexual nature.

The Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District is part of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI) and Commissioner Condon reports to DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn.