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NEWS RELEASE

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL PLEADS GUILTY TO SEXUAL ABUSE

Michael Friedman, the Director of the Bridge School in Manhattan (P.S. 101), pled guilty this morning at Manhattan Criminal Court to sexually abusing two of his male students. Friedman pled guilty to two counts of sexual abuse and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child. Specifically, Friedman pled guilty to ordering the students, aged 13 and 15, to remove their pants and underwear, spanking them and sexually molesting them.

Friedman was required to sign an irrevocable letter of resignation from the New York City school system which takes effect immediately, as well as surrender his teaching license and his supervisor's license. The director must receive continued psychiatric treatment. If he fails to meet these conditions, he faces a one-year jail sentence.

Friedman's plea follows a report released in December by the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District, which found that Friedman had sexually abused the fifteen-year-old male student. As part of his plea today, Friedman admitted to abusing another victim, the thirteen-year-old boy. After the investigation was publicized, additional victims came forward to report that they too had been abused by Friedman.

The Special Commissioner of Investigation thanks the Office of the District Attorney of New York County for its cooperation in the investigation. Assistant District Attorney Jacqueline Mega handled the prosecution of the director.