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Edward F. Stancik Special Commissioner

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Principal Manipulated Grades and Awarded Invalid Diplomas

Today Special Commissioner of Investigation Ed ward F. Stancik released a report entitled HOW TO SUCCEED WITHOUT REALLY TRYING: The Alternative to Education at Eastern District Senior Academy. The report describes how Marcia Brevot, the consultant-principal for Eastern District Senior Academy in Brooklyn during the 1996-97 school year, manipulated students' grades, disregarded state-mandated Regent's Competency Tests ("RCTs"), and allowed students to satisfy city and state graduation requirements with classes and internships that involved, for example, arranging flowers, performing clerical work, and running errands.

- Brevot awarded diplomas to **61** students who either did not complete all their required courses or pass all the state-mandated tests.
- Brevot arbitrarily reversed the grades of **68** students who failed math, and ultimately allowed **30** of these students to graduate.
- Brevot awarded credit to **83** other graduates who had previously failed at least one class.
- Brevot granted a diploma to a 39-year-old who was not even enrolled at the school.

In the aftermath of this misconduct, the guidance department at Eastern District, now under the supervision of the Office of the Superintendent of Brooklyn and Staten Island High Schools ("BASIS"), has rescinded the diplomas awarded to the 61 students who lacked RCTs or credits. A number of these students were already enrolled in college when they were forced to return to high school to satisfy outstanding requirements. The remaining students, who are unaware that their diplomas are in question, might also face a similar fate.

It is important to note that our investigation focused only on the 1996-97 school year, even though the effects of Brevot's assignment continue to be felt at the school. The new Senior Academy administration, under the supervision of BASIS, reviewed the transcripts for the remaining students to ensure that this year's graduates would earn a valid diploma.

Brevot was replaced at Eastern District at the beginning of this school year by John Rodgers. However, Rodgers was subsequently arrested by this office on April 8, 1998 for sexually abusing a school aide in the vault of the school. Brevot was most recently employed as the headmistress at the Francis School in Staten Island.