



THE COALITION FOR ASIAN AMERICAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 3, 2008

**CONTACT: Choua Vue, 212-809-4675 x107, cvue@cacf.org
Vanessa Leung, 212-809-4675 x 102, vleung@cacf.org**

**Anti-Asian Harassment No Longer Tolerated
New Chancellor's Regulation Is Good Start But Requires More Work to Protect Students**

New York, NY – The Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF), the nation's only pan-Asian children's rights organization, supports the Chancellor's Regulation announced today to reduce biased-based harassment but recognizes several shortcomings to the regulation.

"We have worked for years to ensure that Asian Pacific American and all NYC public school students attend schools that are free from harassment. The new Chancellor's Regulation on bias-based harassment is a positive step forward in achieving this goal," said **Wayne Ho**, Executive Director of the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families.

The Chancellor's Regulation is important for the Asian Pacific American (APA) community because it will protect APA students from bullying and harassment based on several factors, including perceived race, ethnicity, immigration status, religion, gender, and sexual orientation. Some highlights include:

- **Designating a staff person** at every school to work on biased-based harassment issues
- **Requiring schools to develop a plan** to address biased-based harassment and report incidents
- **Training students and staff annually** on the regulation and on the "Respect for All" campaign
- **Creating appeals process for students** if the schools fail to address concerns

CACF has the following concerns on the Chancellor's Regulation:

- **Public reporting** is not explicitly included in the regulation
- **Need for language accessible reporting process** for limited English proficient parents & students
- **Exclusion of harassment caused by school staff**, such as principals and teachers
- **Lack of comment period** to give community members an opportunity to share their opinions

The Department of Education has promised to publicly report biased-based harassment by schools. CACF strongly emphasizes this need for public reporting to give parents, students, schools, and the community an important tool to understand and address harassment.

"We also stress the need to translate the Chancellor's Regulation in several languages. Often, we learn that parents are aware of their children being harassed but do not know how to ask for help because of language barriers," said **Choua Vue**, Education and Child Welfare Policy Coordinator of the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families. "Immigrant students may also feel more comfortable reporting incidents in their native language. Having the regulation and complaint forms translated will help close that language gap."

This regulation is the first step toward protecting APA children and families, but further monitoring is required to ensure success. CACF looks forward to working with the Department of Education and with our community partners, including the **Sikh Coalition, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, New York Civil Liberties Union, and the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy (NYAGRA)**, to successfully implement this Chancellor's Regulation.

The Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF), the nation's only pan-Asian children's advocacy organization, aims to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific American children and families. CACF advocates for better policies, funding, and services to ensure that all children have an equal opportunity to thrive.

###