

NEW YORK STATE



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New York State Fathers Encouraged To Participate In “Dads Take Your Child To School” Sept. 21

ALBANY, NY (9/14/2010) – Dads and father figures are urged to accompany their children to school on Tuesday, September 21, as part of national healthy families and responsible fatherhood initiatives.

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and the New York State Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance (OTDA) are joining with local agencies and community groups to encourage participation in "Dads Take Your Child to School Day." While this event is designed to increase male involvement, all parents are encouraged to take their children to school. The continued participation of mothers, grandmothers, and other family members is essential to youth's success.

"We are urging fathers, grandfathers, foster fathers, stepfathers, uncles, cousins, big brothers and other significant male caregivers from across the state to participate in the 'Dads Take Your Child to School Initiative,'" said Gladys Carrión, Esq., Commissioner of OCFS. "Studies show that when fathers and father figures take an active interest in their children's education, youth do better in school, are better adjusted and more likely to succeed."

"Fathers are a critical part of the family equation, and a father's involvement in a child's life can make a tremendous difference," said Kristin Proud, Deputy Secretary for Human Services, Technology and Operations, who is currently overseeing OTDA. "By bringing their children to school at the beginning of the school year, fathers and father figures can demonstrate their commitment to the success of their children in school and in life."

This year there are 27 counties statewide participating. "Dads Take Your Child To School Day" will be held in Albany, Beacon, Buffalo, Freeport, Hempstead, Jamestown, Middletown, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, Rochester, Schenectady, Syracuse, Troy, Valley Stream, Westbury, Westchester, White Plains and Yonkers.

More information about New York State's Fatherhood Initiative can be found at www.ocfs.state.ny.us and www.otda.ny.gov. To hear audio messages on the "Dads Take Your Child to School Day," click on:

English: <http://tiny.cc/dadsenglish>

Spanish: <http://tiny.cc/dadsspanish>

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