

SUMMER 2016

Back to School Newsletter from  
**ASSEMBLYMAN**

**Michael Cusick**



Dear Neighbor:

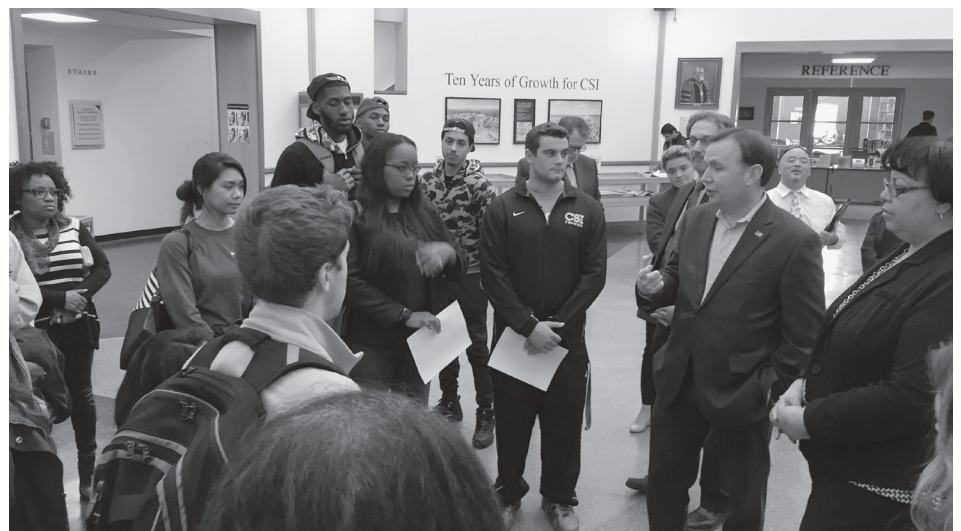
*I hope this finds you well, as you and your family are getting ready for the start of another school year. While the kids are surely sad that summer has come to an end, I want to make sure that you have the important information necessary to prepare you and your family for what will surely be a busy 2016-2017 school year. This newsletter contains helpful phone numbers for school resources on Staten Island, and the Calendar of School Holidays, scheduled meetings of the Staten Island Community Education Council and the Staten Island Federation of PTAs. I have also included some information on what I have been working on in Albany to benefit Staten Island's kids in both public and non-public schools. I hope that you find this information useful, and as always I urge you to contact me with any questions at (718) 370-1384, or by email at [cusickm@nyassembly.gov](mailto:cusickm@nyassembly.gov).*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Cusick".

Michael J. Cusick  
Member of Assembly  
District 63

## Achievements in Education from the 2016 Legislative Session



*Assemblyman Cusick speaks with students at the College of Staten Island.*

### Increased Funding For New York's K-12 Schools

In the 2016-2017 budget we included a record amount of funding for primary education to ensure that every New Yorker receives a top quality education. We also increased aid for the community school initiative, a program which aims to turn schools into more than just a place of learning, but a true community hub.

### Tuition Freeze at All CUNY & SUNY Institutions

In the 2016-2017 budget we secured a tuition freeze at all CUNY & SUNY institutions throughout New York State. We also increased funding for opportunity programs which provide grants to low-income families as well as funding for science, technology & math programs designed to get our kids started in these exciting career fields. This agreement also prevented a cost shift of over \$400 million to New York City, saving Staten Island's taxpayers.

### Additional Support Including Security for Religious and Independent Schools

The budget provides \$60 million in mandated services reimbursement to religious and independent schools, totaling over \$300 million in this funding over the past two years. Additionally, \$15 million is set aside to improve security at these schools which serve 20% of New York's students each and every day. Making certain our students enter a safe and secure environment regardless of whether they attend public or private schools is fundamental to the learning process. Additionally, a new office, the State Office of Religious and Independent Schools, has been created within the State Education Department, including \$2 million in new dedicated funding to support initiatives undertaken by the office.

# 2016 – 2017 NYC Department of Education School Calendar

Parents of Non-Public School students should consult with individual schools for detailed calendars as events & school closings are decided on a school-by-school basis

## SEPTEMBER

**Thursday, September 8** – First Day of School

**Monday, September 12** – Eid al-Adha (Public Schools Closed)

## OCTOBER

**Monday, October 3 – Tuesday, October 4** – Rosh Hashanah (Public Schools Closed)

**Monday, October 10** – Columbus Day (Public Schools Closed)

**Wednesday, October 12** – Yom Kippur (Public Schools Closed)

**Wednesday, October 26** – Middle School Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

**Thursday, October 27** - Middle School Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences

## NOVEMBER

**Wednesday, November 2** – Elementary School Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

**Thursday, November 3** – Elementary School Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences

**Tuesday, November 8** – Election Day (Public Schools Closed)

**Friday, November 11** – Veteran’s Day (Public Schools Closed)

**Tuesday, November 15** – District 75 Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences

**Wednesday, November 16** – District 75 Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

**Thursday, November 17** – High School Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

**Friday, November 18** – High School Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences

**Thursday, November 24 – Friday November 25** - Thanksgiving Recess (Public Schools Closed)

## DECEMBER

**Monday, December 26, 2016 – January 2nd** – Winter Recess (Public Schools Closed)

## JANUARY

**Tuesday, January 3** – School Resumes

**Monday, January 16** - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Public Schools Closed)

**Tuesday, January 24 – Friday, January 30** – Regents Exams Week (Public High Schools Closed)

## FEBRUARY

**Monday, February 20** - President’s Day (All Schools Closed)

**Tuesday, February 21 – Friday, February 24** – Mid-Winter Recess (Public Schools Closed)

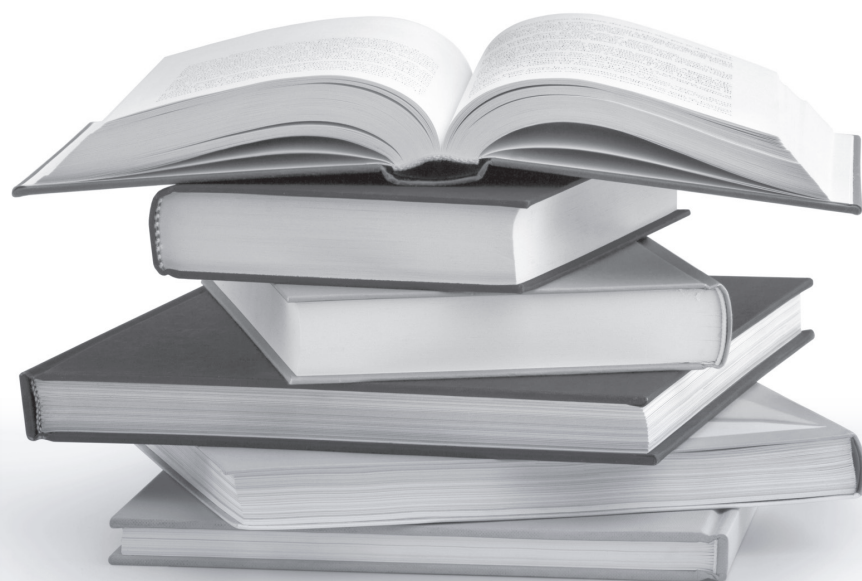
**Monday, February 27** – School Resumes

## MARCH

**Monday, March 6** – District 75 Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

**Tuesday, March 7** – District 75 Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences

**Wednesday, March 8** - Elementary School Evening Parent Teacher Conferences



**Thursday, March 9** - Elementary School Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences

**Wednesday, March 15** - Middle School Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

**Thursday, March 16** - Middle School Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences

**Thursday, March 23** - High School Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

**Friday, March 24** - High School Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences

**Monday, March 27 – Friday March 31** - NY State English Language Arts (ELA) Exams (All schools will have testing Tuesday – Thursday, schools electing for computer based testing may elect to use Monday/Friday instead)

## APRIL

**Monday, April 10 – Tuesday, April 18** – Spring Recess (Public Schools Closed)

**Wednesday, April 19** – School Resumes

## MAY

**Monday, May 1 – Friday, May 5** - NY State Mathematics Exams (All schools will have testing Tuesday – Thursday, schools electing for computer based testing may elect to use Monday/ Friday instead)

**Wednesday, May 3** – High School Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

**Wednesday, May 17** - Elementary School Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

**Thursday, May 18** - Middle School Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

**Monday, May 29** - Memorial Day (Public Schools Closed)

## JUNE

**Monday, June 5** - NY State Science Exams (Grades 4 & 8)

**Thursday, June 8** - Anniversary Day (Public Schools Closed)

**Monday, June 12** - June Clerical Non-Attendance Day (Public Schools Closed for Elementary, Middle, and District 75 Students)

**Wednesday, June 14 – Friday, June 23** – Regents Exam Week (Public High Schools Closed)

**Monday, June 26** - Eid al-Fitr (Public Schools Closed)

**Wednesday, June 28** - Last Day of School

# Parent Education Organizations on Staten Island

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL 31 (CEC 31)

Community Education Council 31 is a group of parents & education advocates who meet on the first Monday of each month during the school year. They discuss topical issues on Staten Island education. The Council serves as a liaison to the Department of Education and represents the entire borough of Staten Island. Their office is located at the Petrides Educational Complex, 715 Ocean Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301. You may reach the Council by phone at 718-420-5746, by fax at 718-420-5745 and via e-mail at CEC31@schools.nyc.gov. Their website is <http://www.cec31.org/meeting-schedule/>.



*Assemblyman Cusick speaks with students from PS 35.*

## STATEN ISLAND FEDERATION OF PTAS

The Staten Island Federation of PTAs, in existence for 87 years, includes all of Staten Island's public school PTAs and acts as a liaison to the Community Education Council, Department of Education, and to elected officials and community leaders throughout our borough. The group meets once a month, and can be reached at [sifpta@gmail.com](mailto:sifpta@gmail.com) or by calling (718) 356-3247. Their website is <http://www.sifpta.org/index.html>.

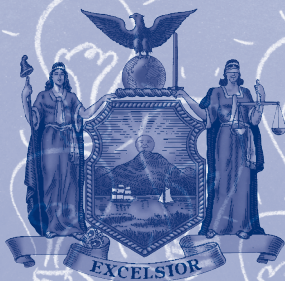


*Assemblyman*

***Michael  
Cusick***

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Newsletter***

*SUMMER 2016*



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