



**News from Congressman**

# **Tom Lantos**

**12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of California  
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FOR INFORMATION CALL**  
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## **Local Schools Get Additional Federal Funds to Improve Security and Crisis Response**

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Lantos (D-San Mateo, San Francisco) today announced that thanks to a special grant program, local primary and secondary schools will receive more than \$300,000 to strengthen their emergency response and crisis management.

“The sad fact of today’s world is that our children and their schools need to be prepared to handle a variety of potential crises,” Lantos said. “While we all pray that our schools never have to set these plans in motion, clearly they need to be ready for any contingency.”

The Department of Education has allotted \$176,413 from its Emergency Response and Crisis Management program to the San Mateo-Foster City School District and \$124,720 to the South San Francisco Unified School District. These new grants can be used to train school personnel, students and parents in emergency response procedures, as well as to ensure efficient coordination between school officials and local law enforcement, public safety, health, and mental health agencies.

“These funds are greatly needed, particularly in light of the tight budgets today for schools,” Lantos noted. “We still have a long way to go to ensure that the current Administration fulfills its promises to fund its education reform programs. But even as we continue to engage in that struggle, it is a relief to know that requests for federal support for safety can still produce results.”

The U.S. Department of Education this week urged schools across the country to heighten security and vigilance against terrorism after the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security analyzed the September elementary school hostage crisis in Beslan, Russia. Additionally, the news emerged today that last month federal law enforcement authorities notified school districts in six states, including California, that a computer disk found in Iraq contained floor plans, photos and other information about their schools.

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