



# Community District Education Council 26

## New York City Department of Education

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**Resolution calling upon Governor Cuomo and New York State Legislature to vote against removing, limiting or changing the admissions criteria, such as the Specialized High School Admissions Test (“SHSAT”), for admission into the Specialized High Schools of New York City, and to stop Mayor Bill de Blasio and Chancellor Richard Carranza’s assault on the standardized objective admissions criteria for the Specialized High Schools.**

WHEREAS, there are eight Specialized High Schools in New York City whose admission is governed by a single standardized objective criteria, which is an academic admissions examination called the Specialized High School Admissions Test (the “SHSAT”);

WHEREAS, these eight high schools are (alphabetically): Bronx High School of Science, Brooklyn Latin School, Brooklyn Technical School, High School for Math, Science and Engineering at City College, High School of American Studies at Lehman College, Queens High School for the Sciences at York College, Staten Island Technical High School, and Stuyvesant High School (hereinafter collectively “the Specialized High Schools”);

WHEREAS, currently there is only one standardized objective criteria for admission into one of the Specialized High Schools, which is achieving a score of a certain level on the SHSAT;

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2018, at 10:00 p.m., Assemblyman Charles Barron in the New York State Assembly (the “Assembly”) sponsored a Bill number A 10427 (the “Assembly Bill”) the purpose of which was to change the admissions criteria to the Specialized High Schools from the standardized objective SHSAT to subjective criteria;

WHEREAS on June 7, 2018, the Assembly Bill was passed on to the Assembly Education Committee, which voted in favor of the bill that proposes to diversify the Specialized High School populations by introducing subjective criteria and eliminating the use of the standardized objective SHSAT over a period of 3 years;

WHEREAS, replacing the current standardized objective SHSAT criteria with subjective based subjective criteria could lead to inequities in the selection process at the Specialized High Schools;

WHEREAS, this plan to remove the standardized objective criteria from the Specialized High School selection could lead to other issues, such as admitting students into rigorous academic programs for which they are not adequately prepared and may place them in a position where they do not have a realistic chance to succeed;

WHEREAS, replacing the current standardized objective admissions criteria for the Specialized High Schools with subjective criteria may lead to the deterioration of the quality of the student body and the Specialized High Schools as educational institutions in the City of New York;

WHEREAS, because of the significant numbers of students that District 26 sends to the Specialized High Schools, this proposed plan will disproportionately negatively impact the students and families of District 26 who are trying to break their own cycles of poverty and elevate into the middle class through sacrifice, hard work, and determination;

WHEREAS, in order to broaden admissions to the Specialized High Schools, the City of New York should instead focus on improving the quality of education and instruction in all grade schools and middle schools in all five boroughs;

WHEREAS, the mayor has already redesigned the structure of the SHSAT by removing scrambled paragraphs and logical reasoning to better align it to curriculum and instruction students experience in their classrooms on a daily basis;

WHEREAS, Mayor de Blasio already increased the standard testing time from 150 minutes to 180 minutes;

WHEREAS, Mayor de Blasio already redesigned the multiple choice questions to now have 4 answer choices instead of the previous 5 answer choice;

WHEREAS, Mayor de Blasio already updated the test design based on the New York State Learning Standards to make the test better aligned to the work students are doing in the classroom, providing a platform for all children to succeed;

WHEREAS, by these changes are already providing a level playing field for all children in all boroughs of NYC to have an equal chance and opportunity in passing the SHSAT without any outside tutoring;

WHEREAS, Community Education Council District 26 disagrees with Mayor Bill de Blasio and Chancellor Richard Carranza's excuse to provide diversity & equity as a mean to abolish SHSAT admission test;

WHEREAS, rather than a plan that would eradicate the SHSAT in order to enhance diversity, the City of New York should instead offer expanded and free high-quality SHSAT prep courses that are geographically accessible to all middle school students throughout the City of New York;

WHEREAS, Mayor Bill de Blasio and Richard Carranza should review as to why previous plans failed to increase diversity in Specialized High Schools prior to proposing a new plan to eradicate the SHSAT admission test;

WHEREAS, the proposal of removing the standardized objective SHSAT as the criteria for admission to the Specialized High Schools and replacing it with unspecified subjective criteria would undermine the noble aspirations of the American dream, diminish the quality of diversity to which these schools aspire, and negatively impact the students and families of District 26 and others throughout New York City who have achieved, and continue to seek to achieve, admission thorough hard work, sacrifice, and determination;

WHEREAS, Community Education Council District 26 recommends the New York State Legislature create a committee to review the unfair proposal presented by Mayor Bill de Blasio and Chancellor Richard Carranza;

WHEREAS, Community Education Council District 26 recommends that Mayor de Blasio and Chancellor Carranza seek to expand seats in Specialized High School to provide accessibility to more children;

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED AND DECREED:** that New York City Community Education Council District 26 calls upon Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature to vote against removal of the SHSAT admission test and to stop Mayor Bill de Blasio and Chancellor Richard Carranza's assault on the current standardized objective admissions criteria for the Specialized High Schools.