



Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

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Alan Ong <i>President of the Council</i>	Todd Friedman <i>First Vice- President</i>	Cassandra Louie <i>Second Vice President</i>	Adriana Aviles <i>Recording Secretary</i>	Albert Suhu <i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Council Members:</i>				Danielle Giunta
Norman Cohn	Sulinda Hong	Athena Gavros	Community Superintendent	
Dennis Chan	Dilip Nath		District 26	
Jennifer Catherall	Taeho Hwang			

Resolution to Reinstate Academic Screening for District 26 Middle School Programs

Approved on December 16, 2021

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic caused the New York City Department of Education school system to shut down on March 16, 2020, and shift to a remote-learning model for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year: and ¹

WHEREAS, New York State English Language Arts (ELA) and math assessments were canceled in March & April 2020, following the announcement of waivers permitted by the U.S. Secretary of Education ²; and

WHEREAS, only “pass/fail” grades were permitted for the school year 2019-2020 final marking period ³; and

WHEREAS, the New York City Schools Chancellor suspended middle school screened programs for the school year 2021-22 due to the unavailability of 2019-2020 numerical grades and state assessment scores for use as screening criteria: ⁴ and

WHEREAS, District 26 implemented middle school screened programs 10 years ago to meet high demand from our parents for a rigorous curriculum for high-achieving students; and

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, District 26 middle school screened programs were made available in each of our middle schools and open to all students to apply to: and

WHEREAS, over 2,000 fifth graders have been applying to District 26 screened middle school programs every year ⁵; and

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2021, parents at a Community Education Council District 26 (CEC26) feedback forum overwhelmingly demanded middle school screened programs be restored; and

WHEREAS, numerical report card grades were issued in the school year 2020-21 and New York State ELA and math assessments were given in Spring 2021 that can once again be used for middle school screening criteria;⁶ and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Education Council District 26 (CEC26) demands the New York City Schools Chancellor to lift the suspension of our middle school screened programs.

Community Education Council District 26 approved the resolution on December 16, 2021 monthly meeting with a uniramous vote. Members Present: Norman Cohn, Dilip Nath, Todd Friedman, Adriana Aviles, Albert Suhu, Dennis Chan, Sulinda Hong, Taeho Hwang, Alan Ong and Cassandra Louie. Member absent: Jennifer Catherall.

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/15/nyregion/nyc-schools-closed.html>

² <https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2020/3/20/21196092/it-s-official-new-york-state-calls-off-exams-due-to-coronavirus-closures>

³ <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/297-20/mayor-de-blasio-chancellor-carranza-adjusted-k-12-citywide-grading-policy-2019-20>

⁴ : <https://nypost.com/2020/12/18/nyc-ends-academic-screens-for-middle-schools-but-keeps-them-for-high-schools/>

⁵ www.myschools.nyc

⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/06/world/nyc-standardized-testing.html> ; <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/update-for-families-october-26-2020>