



Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

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Resolution Urging Siting of a New Specialized High School at 28Q497 Approved March 20, 2025

WHEREAS, Mayor Eric Adams has repeatedly expressed his commitment to expanding Specialized High School seats in every borough, thereby promoting equitable access to rigorous academic programs throughout New York Cityⁱ; and

WHEREAS, the Queens High School for the Sciences at York College (28Q687) serves 511 students, making it the smallest and the only test-based Specialized High School located in Queensⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, the total number of specialized high school seats in New York City is 15,732, meaning the seat capacity of 511 at Queens High School for the Sciences at York College accounts for only 3.2% citywideⁱⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, 28% of 8th graders in New York City Public Schools are in Queens^{iv}; and

WHEREAS, 1,305 8th graders in Queens received offers to specialized high schools or 32% of all offers made city-wide^v; and

WHEREAS, the severe shortage of specialized high school seats in Queens forces approximately four thousand underserved Queens students to endure commutes of up to two hours to travel to the Bronx, Brooklyn, or Manhattan to attend specialized high schools^{vi}; and

WHEREAS, a viable partial solution exists in the form of the unnamed high school facility (28Q497) under construction at 165-15 88th Avenue in Jamaica, which is designed to have a capacity of 800 seats and is scheduled for completion by September 3, 2026 (SCA Project No. DSF0000911858)^{vii}; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Education Council 26 (CEC 26) urges Queens South High School Superintendent Dr. Josephine Van-Ess and the NYC Department of Education to site a specialized high school at the location designated for the unnamed high school facility (28Q497) currently under construction at 165-15 88th Avenue in Jamaica, Queens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC 26 demands the NYC Department of Education Office of District Planning to include in its long-term plans to address the inequitable and grossly disproportionate lack of specialized high school seats in Queens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC 26 demands the NYC Department of Education Office of District Planning to report annually on the status of its plans to sharply increase the number of specialized high school seats in Queens during its annual data presentation to CEC 24, CEC 25, CEC 26, CEC 27, CEC 28, CEC 29, CEC 30, and the Citywide Council on High Schools.

During the CEC26 meeting held on March 20, 2025, the resolution was reviewed and unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

ⁱ <https://nypost.com/2022/04/09/eric-adams-eyes-building-specialized-schools-in-each-nyc-borough/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.myschools.nyc>

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} <https://data.nysed.gov/lists.php?type=county>

^v <https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/admissions-and-enrollment/admissions-outcomes>

^{vi} Ibid.

^{vii} <http://nycsca.org/Community/Capital-Plan-Reports-Data>