**High School Admissions**

*July 2020*

- Presentation will begin at scheduled time.
- Please keep yourself on mute to reduce background noise.

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**Current Changes**

- Admissions Engagement:
  - Attendance and punctuality not considered for 2021 admissions
  - State tests (ELA and math) cancelled in spring 2020
  - Regents exams cancelled in June and August 2020
  - Course grades look very different in spring 2020

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**Upcoming Changes**

(details to be determined)

- Some information we know, and it is covered in this presentation.
- Some information hasn’t been determined yet.

- We understand you need updates so that you can support your students, and we thank you for your patience.
- As soon as we know, we will keep you updated.
  - Summer SHSAT and LaGuardia auditions
  - School buildings re-opening in fall 2020
  - Admissions Engagement events
  - Some admissions methods will change next year. How these will change has yet to be determined.
    - Screened, Audition
    - Educational Option (Ed. Opt.)

As soon as this information is determined, we will notify you.

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**Agenda for Today**

- What We Know about Summer and Fall
- High School Admissions Overview
- The nine Specialized High Schools
- Next Steps for Summer and Fall
- Updates and Planning Ahead
- 2021 High School Admissions Guide
- Resources and Contacts for Families
Students with Accessibility Needs

Learn about a school’s accessibility:

- By visiting or contacting the school directly
- In the High School and Specialized High Schools Admissions Guide
- Online in My Schools

Learn more at MySchools.nyc

English Language Learners (ELL)

- English Language Learners can apply to any high school in New York City.
- All high schools must provide services for students learning English.
- English Language Learners are eligible for supports and accommodations on admissions-related tests and auditions.

Some high school programs are specifically for students who are learning English or new to this country.

These programs admit students based on

- Home language
- Years in this country
- English proficiency

Learn more at MySchools.nyc

Students with Disabilities (SWD)

- Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) may apply to any high school program in New York City
- All high schools must provide services for students with an IEP. IEPs are also known as IEPs or Learning Programs
- On each school page in the online directory, you can find each program's SWD seat availability last year, and each school's accessibility category.

In high school admissions, students are considered for offers in two seat groups:

- General Education
- Special Education

Learn more at MySchools.nyc

GE students are only considered alongside other GE students for seats in the application process. Students with disabilities are only considered alongside other students with disabilities for seats in the application process. Not every IEP student is a SWD student. If unclear about seat group (General Education or Students with Disabilities), consult with the school counselor or a FWC.
There are two separate pathways through high school admissions. One pathway is submitting your personalized high school application: this is the way to apply to most of the city’s 700-plus program options. The second pathway is testing and/or auditioning to apply to one or more of the nine specialized high schools. Both pathways begin in the fall of your eighth-grade year.
Two Pathways to High School Admissions: High School Admissions (required path and optional path) start in the fall of the 8th grade and run on different start dates and deadlines. (Required Path) Students have several months to explore high schools, start your application, and narrow your options to 12 programs you’d like to attend. The Optional Path is for the Specialized High Schools. There are 9 specialized high schools. In the spring, you will get one high school offer letter.

This letter will include up to one offer from the high school application and any information about any schools where you are waitlisted. If you took the S-H-S-A-T and/or auditioned for LaGuardia High School, this letter will also contain your Specialized High Schools results: these may include up to one offer from a testing school and/or up to one offer from each LaGuardia program you auditioned for. If you do get more than one offer, you will have a deadline to choose between them. Every high school program—except the nine Specialized High Schools—has a waitlist.

Start your journey to high school with the newest High School Admissions Guide, available online and in print! This book is really two guides in one: When you receive your print copy, flip the book over and note that it has two covers. Here is the link to the online version of the handbook: https://on.nyc.gov/39E6kGP This summer is a good time to choose 20 – 30 programs that interest you, and then you’ll narrow this down to 12 choices in the fall. Don’t list the Specialized High Schools on your application. Your school counselor is your main point of contact through this entire process. Get to know them!
MySchools is the online high school directory and application. Go to myschools.nyc. This is what it looks like. You will find the most up-to-date, detailed information on all schools and programs. When the high school application opens, you'll also use MySchools to build and submit your application.

To start searching for schools, scroll all the way down to the very bottom of the page, and click the button that says, “Start Browsing” to the next screen and select “High School.”

This is the searchable online directory. At the top is a box where you can enter your home address to see schools close to home. Below that is the search box. You can search for anything such as the name of a school, or search for things you want in a school - location, size, courses offered, sports, and more.
Below the search box, you’ll see some buttons. You can use these to narrow down your search. Click the Subway button to choose subway lines to see schools near the subway lines you chose. Click the Size button to choose your desired school size. Click on More Filters to explore other options. More information is in the High School Guide starting on page 10.

To read more about a school, just click the name of a school. Then you’ll see this, the school page. On the left is all the information about the school, and the map showing where the school is located appears on the right.

This is just a partial list of all the different types of schools there are in New York City. Information about these school types is the High School Admissions Guide on pages 9-11.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is one type of schools mentioned. Students in CTE high schools graduation at a higher rate compared to citywide graduation rates. Here is the link to a video to learn more these schools. https://youtu.be/KqZvbLMB_j4
When you scroll down on the school page in MySchools, you’ll see programs at the school. Think of programs like doorways to get into the school through the application process. When you complete your application in the fall, you will list programs on the application, not schools. Some schools have one program. Some schools have many programs. Each program is a choice on your application. Click on the name of a program to read more about the program.

Admissions Methods show what students need to do to be considered for the program, but remember that some admissions methods will change this fall. Details have yet to be determined. Demand last year: this section shows the number of applicants and the number of seats show the demand for the program was last year. More applicants per seat means a lower chance of getting an offer.

In the admissions method section, you will see important information that will help figure out a student’s chance of getting an offer to each program. Admissions Methods show what students need to do to be considered for the program. Priority Groups show the order in which applicants are considered for offers. Priority groups are different at different programs, and some programs don’t have these at all.

You can now download and print each school page as a PDF.
Learn more about Admissions Methods on page 26 in the High School Admissions Guide.

Remember, your goal is to build a balanced application in the fall. And this is what we mean: **12 programs**: Your child’s application has 12 program choices that you want. **Not just high-demand programs**: These programs have many more applicants than available seats. More applicants per seat lower the chance of getting an offer. If you apply to any high-demand programs (10 or more applicants per seat), a student is in the first priority group for at least some programs: Not in the first priority group means a lower chance of getting an offer.

One of the most important things is the order of choices on a student’s application. High schools cannot see the order of programs on a student’s application. Also, if a student gets into their first choice, then that’s it! One is not considered for any of the other choices on their application.

So a student’s first choice should be their real first choice, even if it’s a competitive program.
A very important student factor is the number of choices on the Application. 97% of students who listed 12 programs on their Applications received an offer to a program of choice in Round 1 last year. If students list 12 programs on an application, they will have a better chance of getting an offer from one of your choices.

The optional pathway is for the Specialized High Schools. There are 9 specialized high schools. If you want to apply to any of these, you can take the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) and/or audition for LaGuardia high school in the fall of 8th grade. Then in March, you’ll get your results if you chose to do this path.
There are nine Specialized High Schools (SHS). Learn more about them in the SHS Student Handbook, NYC High School Guide, and MySchools. There are eight schools that require students to take the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test, also called the SHSAT: Bronx Science, Brooklyn Tech, Brooklyn Latin, HS of American Studies at Lehman College, HSMSE at City College, Queens HS for Sciences at York College, Staten Island Tech, and Stuyvesant. These schools do not review students’ academic record for admissions. The ninth is LaGuardia High School which the only SHS that requires an audition.

LaGuardia High School is the only Specialized High School that requires an audition and review of previous year’s academic achievements. For 8th grade students who audition, LaGuardia reviews their 7th grade school record. Students do not have to take the SHSAT for admission to LaGuardia; the SHSAT is not used at all for admission to LaGuardia High School. There are six studios at LaGuardia that students can audition for: Dance, Drama, Fine and Visual Arts, Instrumental Music, Technical Theater, Vocal Music.

Start preparing for LaGuardia High School auditions now. The Specialized High Schools Student Handbook has audition requirements for each studio and the LaGuardia’s website. Audition dates and times are in the SHS Student Handbook on page 7. Work with your school counselor in September to review any accommodations needed.
If a student or parent has accessibility needs, we recommend learning about a school’s accessibility by planning to visit or by contacting the school directly to confirm that it would be a good fit for the student and the family. General information about a school’s accessibility in the High School and Specialized High Schools Admissions Guide, or online in MySchools.

Here are examples of how to bubble in your school choices in preference order on your test ticket and answer sheet. You can also find these examples on page 20 of the Handbook. Example 1: This is a student who is interested in all the Specialized High Schools, and so has bubbled in one high school for each choice. This student will be considered for all 8 schools. Example 2: This is a student who is interested in only two of the Specialized High Schools, and so has bubbled in one high school for choice number 1, and one high school for choice number 2. This student will only be considered for these two schools.
Taking the SHSAT is your application to the testing Specialized High Schools. You don’t list any of the Specialized High Schools on your high school application. After the SHSAT, answer sheets (not the test booklets) are then scored. Students must make sure they indicate their answers on the answer sheet. Students’ test scores are placed in order from the highest score to the lowest score. Students’ SHSAT scores, their priority order of all schools, and seat availability determine which students receive offers.

To understand how offers to the testing high schools are determined, imagine all the students’ answer sheets are in a big pile, with the answer sheet for the student with the highest score on top, and the next highest score after, and so on. This score order (from highest to lowest) is used to determine which students receive offers.

This is an made up example of an answer sheet for the student with the highest score on the SHSAT. Please note that none of these examples imply actual seat counts or actual student choices. The names of the schools are real! The student’s first choice school is Brooklyn Latin, second choice school is Brooklyn Tech, etc. The student listed all of the SHS in preference order; the student’s last choice is Bronx Science.

This top scoring student will be offered their first choice school from this list of schools they bubbled on the answer sheet. Since the first choice is Brooklyn Latin, and Brooklyn Latin has 100 seats available, the student will get an offer. Now there are 99 seats remaining in Brooklyn Latin.
Finally, let’s look at the answer sheet for the student with the 501st highest score. This student’s top choice is Brooklyn Latin, but Brooklyn Latin does not have any seats left. The student’s next choice is Brooklyn Tech, but Brooklyn Tech also has no seats left. The student has no other choices, so does not receive an offer. Had the student listed Bronx Science, the student would have received an offer to Bronx Science. We recommend you list all 8 choices on the answer sheet. You can always decline the offer.

Let’s look at the student with the 500th highest score. This student’s first choice, Brooklyn Latin, no longer has seats available. The student’s second choice, Brooklyn Tech, also no longer has seats available. The student’s third choice, Bronx Science, has 10 seats available and receives an offer there. Now there are 9 remaining left at Bronx Science.

Next Steps: What Can Families Do This Summer?

- Continue learning about high school admissions.
- Explore schools and programs.
- Make a list of favorite programs, and programs they want to learn more about.
- Stay engaged with admissions at schools.nyc.gov/SignUp for admissions tips, key date reminders, information about events, and any changes to the process or timeline.
- Watch videos on high school admissions (available instead of summer workshops for families) at schools.nyc.gov/HSVideos. Posted throughout the summer.
This is a good time to make sure your home address is correct in ATS. In September, the Office of Student Enrollment sends a printed Welcome Letter to each public school 8th grade student at their home address. School counselors can also provide you with this letter. Students, who attend a private or parochial school, can get their letter from their current school counselor or at a Family Welcome Center.

Reminder - Your Welcome Letter has:
Account creation code
Instructions for getting started in MySchools
Only after that, you can add your child in MySchools and start your application.

Here are resources for you to use, and remember, your main point of contact is your child’s school counselor.

Here are some notable alumni from NYC public high schools.