

Council Member: David Alexander
Council Member: Emily Aulet
Council Member: Janis Barnes
Council Member: La slisha Bradberry
Council Member: Anita Douglas



BPA/Vice President: Victor T. Iroh
Treasurer: Terrance Johnson
President: NeQuan C. McLean
Borough President Appointee: Tanya St. Julien
Recording Secretary/ IEP Representative: Marta Torres

RESOLUTION ON SCHOOL DIVERSITY ADVISORY GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREAS New York City is one of the most diverse places in America, yet our schools are more segregated than they were in the 1960's¹; and

WHEREAS New York City's history of residential segregation and disinvestment has created our segregated city, but Department of Education (DOE) admission policy has reinforced it; and

WHEREAS decades of institutional neglect and racism have created deep concentrations of students experiencing privilege and those who have been made vulnerable by the system; and

WHEREAS screened middle and high school admissions, and policy for Gifted and Talented (G&T) programming adopted under Mayor Michael Bloomberg reinforced and replicated disparities in who has access to enriched educational opportunities in this city; and

WHEREAS in 2017 Mayor Bill de Blasio and then-Chancellor Carmen Fariña released a report titled: "Diversity in New York City Public Schools" in 2016 after years of pressure from grassroots organizations of parents and community organizations to examine and address segregation in public schools; and

WHEREAS the Diversity Report announced the creation of a School Diversity Advisory Group (SDAG) to "tackle citywide policies and practices such as admissions and program planning;²" and

WHEREAS SDAG's preliminary report³, Making the Grade I, articulates goals for citywide integration, and lays out a holistic framework for policy using the student-designed 5 R's of Real Integration (Race, Socioeconomic Status and Enrollment, Resources, Relationships, Restorative Justice, and Representation)⁴; and

WHEREAS the SDAG's second report, Making the Grade II, offers many steps the DOE must take to undo the harm caused under prior Board of Education and Department of Education leadership, and meet the goals adopted by the city; and

WHEREAS, Black and Latinx student make up 65% of all kindergartners, but only 18% of students labeled as "gifted"⁵; and

WHEREAS, the New York City practice of using a single admissions test, administered at four years old to determine who is "gifted," is developmentally inappropriate, and has been condemned by the National Association for Gifted Children⁶; and

¹ https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/05/11/nyregion/segregation-in-new-york-city-public-schools.html?_r=0

² The Diversity Plan, pg. 4 <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/vision-and-mission/diversity-in-our-schools>

³ <https://www.schooldiversity.nyc/>

⁴ <https://www.integratenyc.org/realintegration>

⁵ NYC DOE Data from: Making the Grade II: pg 26, <https://www.schooldiversity.nyc/>

⁶ <https://www.nagc.org/sites/default/files/Position%20Statement/Assessment%20Position%20Statement.pdf>

Council Member: David Alexander
Council Member: Emily Aulet
Council Member: Janis Barnes
Council Member: La slisha Bradberry
Council Member: Anita Douglas



BPA/Vice President: Victor T. Iroh
Treasurer: Terrance Johnson
President: NeQuan C. McLean
Borough President Appointee: Tanya St. Julien
Recording Secretary/ IEP Representative: Marta Torres

WHEREAS, the American Educational Research Association, the American Psychological Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education released a joint statement on the uses of standardized testing in education, proclaiming that, “Decisions that affect individual students' life chances or educational opportunities should not be made on the basis of test scores alone⁷,” and

WHEREAS, metrics like test scores, behavior marks, attendance and tardiness often serve as proxies for parent income, and utilizing them to allocate access to educational opportunities reinforces patterns of racial bias embedded throughout the education system; and

WHEREAS, the city has already responded to the SDAG and longtime advocates with investments in Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Education (CRSE), Restorative Justice and Social Emotional Learning, Recruiting and Retaining diverse faculty, and ensuring resources are equitably distributed, all priorities put forth by the SDAG; and

WHEREAS, building equitable enrollment policies is a priority for creating integrated and inclusive schools; and

WHEREAS, thirteen districts are currently working with NYSED on the Socioeconomic Integration Pilot (NYSIP)⁸, and five more have city funds to design inclusionary enrollment policies⁹;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the district 16 CEC calls on Mayor de Blasio and Chancellor Carranza to approve the SDAG recommendations, and eliminate the use of exclusionary admissions practices that create segregation by race, class, disability, home language, and academic ability across the system;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the DOE must immediately end the practice of testing four year olds for G&T, and institute a moratorium on adding new programs and/or classes to existing program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the DOE should resource district 16 to pilot a school wide enrichment alternative for G&T;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the DOE should resource all districts to conduct community engagement to develop inclusionary admissions for K-8 programs.

⁷ <http://www.aera.net/About-AERA/AERA-Rules-Policies/Association-Policies/Position-Statement-on-High-Stakes-Testing>

⁸ <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/funding/2018-title-1-nysip-plc/home.html>

⁹ <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/292-19/mayor-de-blasio-schools-chancellor-carranza-adoption-school-diversity-advisory-group>

Council Member: David Alexander
Council Member: Emily Aulet
Council Member: Janis Barnes
Council Member: La slisha Bradberry
Council Member: Anita Douglas



BPA/Vice President: Victor T. Iroh
Treasurer: Terrance Johnson
President: NeQuan C. McLean
Borough President Appointee: Tanya St. Julien
Recording Secretary/ IEP Representative: Marta Torres

Approved by a vote of the Council on: September 23rd, 2019

7 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention