



Class Size Matters
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Good evening, my name is Michael Horwitz, and tonight I'm speaking on behalf of Class Size Matters. We urge the PEP not to renew the Pearson contract. We, as well as numerous other advocates, parents, and teachers, have pointed out how the gifted test has been shown to be unreliable and biased, effects which the pandemic's disruption to the education system would almost certainly exacerbate. Further, although the program was supposedly established in the name of equity, in practice its outcomes have instead reflected, and deepened, the racial and economic inequities plaguing the school system.

We also urge you not to expand the gifted program to do universal screening, which would be even more expensive and take even more classroom time.

Finally, we feel it is important to voice concerns with the DOE's incomplete account of Pearson's problematic record in the Request for Authorization document. The RA omits this company's history of mis-scoring tests in NYC, the infamous Pineapple section on the 8th grade state tests, the company's attempt to bribe New York officials, and several allegations of discrimination, including an ongoing investigation by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, based on employee complaints of discrimination on the basis of age, sex, disability, and race. To spend millions of dollars on a company with such an egregious record at a time of such a severe budget crisis for our City is nothing less than unconscionable.

Given the seriousness of these issues, I would like to ask Chancellor Carranza, why did DOE officials omit Pearson's appalling record from this document?