



**Parents of the School Leadership Team (SLT) & Parents' Association (PA)
of NYC Lab Middle School for Collaborative Studies (NYC Lab Middle School)
Resolution**

Statement Regarding Proposed Changes to the Specialized High School Admissions

Presented at the General Parent Association Meeting on December 18, 2018

The parents of the School Leadership Team (SLT) and Parents' Association (PA) of NYC Lab Middle School for Collaborative Studies (NYC Lab Middle School) conducted a survey to understand the opinions of our community regarding the proposed changes to the admission process for specialized high schools as described in Bill A10427A/S08503-A (survey Exhibit A).

The parents of the NYC Lab Middle School SLT and PA Executive Board support the goal of expanding diversity at specialized high schools and respect the diversity of opinions regarding this issue amongst people on both sides. However, the result of our survey was not ambiguous. Of the 332 responses, 99.1% are opposed to this proposal. As a result, the NYC Lab Middle School SLT parents and PA Executive Board stand with our families in opposition to this proposal.

Furthermore,

- 1) We support an admissions process for New York City's specialized high schools that is fully objective and transparent and ensures fair and equitable treatment of all New York City students.
- 2) We support maintaining the Hecht-Calandra Act as it is currently written—and administration of the SHSAT as the sole means of admission—unless an alternative is presented to and thoroughly discussed with communities across the city that addresses the concerns that have been raised regarding the current proposed legislation.
- 3) We believe it is important for specialized schools to maintain the academic standards that characterize them today and prepare the children to excel in the highly competitive global environment.
- 4) We believe there are other approaches beneficial to all New York City's children (not the top 7%) that should be explored as an alternative to the current proposed legislation.
 - To increase diversity and opportunity in NYC's schools, attention should be directed both to address systemic failures and barriers to equitable education and to increase opportunities in our city's elementary and middle schools in historically underserved communities.
- 5) Because any change to the current admissions process will have a significant impact on families at our school and thousands of families across the city, it is imperative that an open,

transparent dialogue occur to explore the development of any alternatives to the current admissions criteria over a period of time.

If another alternative to SHSHAT is to be considered, it must be:

- Developed in coordination with communities, teachers, and administration across the city
- Objective and transparent
- Supported by research

In addition, the potential effects on non-specialized high schools must be considered as part of any proposal to change admission to the specialized high schools.

We encourage families of NYC Lab Middle School to stay informed on these issues, to attend meetings to voice your concerns, and to reach out to elected officials.

Check the NYC Lab Middle School website for links to events and information:

<http://bit.ly/SpecHSChangeResources>

To find out how to contact your elected officials:

For members of the State Assembly: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/>

For members of the State Senate: <https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator>

For the Governor's office: <https://www.ny.gov/agencies/office-governor>