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**Resolution 8 on Middle and High School Admission Policy for School Year 2020-2021**

**Resolution calling upon Governor Andrew Cuomo, Mayor Bill DeBlasio, Chancellor Richard Carranza, and the New York State Legislature to immediately provide guidance, based on objective measures, to parents as to the admissions policy for middle and high schools for the 2020-2021 School year, for both screened and unscreened schools, and to provide the testing date for the SHSAT which is mandated by law.**

**Sponsor: Yi Fang Chen**

**Co-sponsors: Mauricia Cadillo, Vito LaBella, Inga Smolyar**

1. Whereas more than 80% of schools in District 20 have non-screened admissions.
2. Whereas as of June 2020 there were approximately 8,000 (close to one quarter of the D20 K-8 population) 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders enrolled, which as of September 2020 would be in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, respectively, and applying to middle and high schools for the following academic school year.
3. Whereas as of December 2020, there has been no guidance or clear communication from the NYC DOE, the Mayor, or the Chancellor with respect to admissions criteria for both screened and unscreened middle and high schools, as well as for superintendent programs in those schools.
4. Whereas as of December 2020, the SHSAT date has still not been scheduled and no guidance has been provided to schools, parents or students with respect to admissions to the specialized high schools for next year.
5. Whereas the SHSAT is mandated to be given pursuant to state law, and as such a date should be scheduled.
6. Whereas as of December 2020, certain middle school entrance exams have still not been scheduled and no guidance has been provide to schools, parents, or students with respect to admissions to these middle schools for next year.
7. Whereas the NYCDOE should provide a safe environment to administer the exam, either at the children's own local school, given that all middle schools and high schools are currently remote only, or alternatively, similar to how the catholic school exam as well as the New York bar exam have recently been conducted remotely.
8. Whereas decades of research and documented outcomes have demonstrated the benefits of supporting all students across the learning spectrum from those with learning disabilities and those with high learning abilities. High ability students also have their own unique needs that require support for them to reach their full potential.

9. Whereas the NYCDOE has a unique opportunity this year to administer the SHSAT to all 8<sup>th</sup> graders either remotely or at their local school, while maintaining safe distances and safety protocols.
10. Whereas increasing numbers of school districts across our country have implemented universal screening programs to assure that all children are given the opportunity to receive the support they need and deserve.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED AND DECREED** that the District 20 Community Education Council calls upon the Chancellor and Mayor to:

1. Immediately announce admission plans, criteria, relevant test schedules and application deadlines for middle schools and high schools so that 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents can make plans with some certainty during this already uncertain time.
2. Provide transparency to parents and students with respect to middle and high school admissions for the upcoming school year.
3. Have the SHSAT administered to all students (unless they opt out) this year either remotely, or at their local middle schools, following all necessary safety protocols.
4. Use the following metrics to populate Screened Middle Schools and D20 Superintendent's Programs: 50% 2019 Third Grade State Test Scores and 50% 4<sup>th</sup> Grade March 2020 Grades. To ensure that students are not negatively impacted due to circumstances beyond their control we call for any use of Absences and/or Latenesses to be discontinued both for the 2020-2021 year and in the future.