

Council Officers

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Yanqing (Angi) Chen	Kevin Zhao
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Resolution 3
(SY23-24)

Resolution To Expand ASD Nest and ASD Horizon Programs in District 20 for Elementary and Middle School.

Approved by a vote of 8 yes, 1 not present, and 1 excused on (10/11/2023)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Stephen Stowe - Y | 6. Wenming (Angie) Chen - Not Present |
| 2. John Ricottone - Y | 7. Yanqing (Angi) Chen - Y |
| 3. Elizabeth Chan - Y | 8. Maya Rozenblat - Excused |
| 4. Xiaoqiong (Joyce) Xie - Y | 9. Tamara Stern - Y |
| 5. Meifang (Junmi) Chen - Y | 10. Kevin Zhao - Y |

Sponsor(s): John Ricottone, Stephen Stowe

Co-sponsor(s): Yanqing (Angi) Chen, Xiaoqiong (Joyce) Xie, Wenming (Angie) Chen

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Education (DOE) offers two specialty programs for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). These programs are named ASD Nest and ASD Horizon. ASD Nest is typically inclusionary with ASD students learning in Integrated Co-Taught (ICT) settings. ASD Horizon can be either ICT or stand-alone classes with a targeted student, paraprofessional and teacher ratio. Together these ASD programs will be referred to as “ASD Programs” throughout this resolution.

WHEREAS, in the 2023-2024 school year, the ASD Nest program in New York City serves 2,065 children with ASD in over 413 fully inclusive classrooms in 83 schools from kindergarten through grade 12¹.

WHEREAS, for the 2023-2024 school year, the ASD program is currently offered in a total of (8) eight schools for Middle School children within Brooklyn. However there are no ASD Programs for Middle School in District 20. The closest middle school ASD Program is Seth Low Middle School in District 21 at 99 Avenue P Brooklyn, NY

¹ ASD Nest Support Project, NYU Steinhardt. [About the NYU ASD Nest Support Project | NYU Steinhardt](#)

<https://casetext.com/regulation/new-york-codes-rules-and-regulations/title-8-education-department/chapter-ii-regulations-of-the-commissioner/subchapter-p-handicapped-children/part-200-children-with-handicapping-conditions/section-20013-educational-programs-for-students-with-autism>

11204.

WHEREAS, there are 124 students who reside in D20 attending ASD programs citywide. Of these, 68 attend ASD programs outside of District 20 with the grade breakdown as follows:

- 32 students are in K-5
- 29 students are in 6-8
- 7 students are in 9-12

WHEREAS, there are 145 ASD K-8 seats in D20 and 6 ASD pre-k seats. Of these seats, 56 are currently taken by District 20 residents and 77 are taken by students from outside of D20.

WHEREAS, General education students in District 20 are able to choose from all of the middle school options in District #20, yet parents of middle school ASD children who live in District #20 have no option to continue the ASD Programs within District #20. The children would have to travel to a middle school outside the district.

WHEREAS, autistic children have social and communication difficulties, which could leave them at a greater risk. They are at a disadvantage because they are far away from their loved ones, having to endure lengthy rides to and from school. The children, their families, and their quality of life are being neglected and affected due to traveling circumstances.

WHEREAS, there are currently 29 District 20 middle school children who qualify for ASD Programs who are being placed outside District 20 due to a lack of available ASD Program seats in District #20. These 29 students attend school in:

- D13 - 1 Student
- D15 - 12 Students
- D21 - 10 Students
- D22- 6 Students

WHEREAS, in the upcoming 2023-2024 school year, the ASD Nest program will be offered at 11 elementary schools in Brooklyn. District 20 offers ASD Programs at 2 elementary schools - ASD Horizon at PS 164 and ASD Nest at PS 682.

WHEREAS, There are 30 students from D20 enrolled at 20K682 and 21 enrolled from other districts. The total enrollment currently is 51 students and there are 52 seats in the program

WHEREAS, there are presently 10 children with an ASD diagnosis in District 20 currently awaiting placement. At this time the children that are waitlisted are all elementary placements.

WHEREAS, Section 200.13 of New York State Title 8 Education Law sets out requirements for educational programs for students with autism, based in part on criteria set forth in section 200.6(h)(2) of Federal Regulation Title 34.

WHEREAS, per section 200.13-(c) "ALL school districts are REQUIRED to furnish appropriate educational programs for free public education until they obtain a high school diploma, or until the end of the school year in which they attain their 21st birthday (whichever occurs first)". While the term "School District" applies to the City

of New York as a whole, we believe Community School District's should aspire to this same standard.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Community Education Council for District 20 requests:

- the DOE establish ASD Programs at District #20 middle schools. This should consider the number of District 20 students currently attending ASD programs in other Districts
- the DOE increase the number of ASD Programs at District #20 elementary schools. This should consider the number of District 20 students currently waitlisted for ASD programs in District 20.