

# Apply to High School

All NYC 8th graders—and any interested first-time 9th graders—can participate in high school admissions by following one or all of the following paths:

- 1 Submit a high school application.**  
This process is how you apply to most high school programs. Apply to 12 or more programs in your true order of preference.
- 2 Register to take the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) for admission to one of the eight testing Specialized High Schools.**
- 3 Apply to LaGuardia High School.**  
Interested students can apply to any/all of LaGuardia's six arts programs by submitting an application and auditioning.

## MySchools.nyc

Use this resource to learn about high schools, build and submit your child's application, upload any additional materials, and register for Specialized High Schools admissions.

## [schools.nyc.gov/HS](https://schools.nyc.gov/HS) | [schools.nyc.gov/SHS](https://schools.nyc.gov/SHS)

Find the latest admissions updates. Watch videos to learn about high school admissions, including how to use MySchools and how students get offers.

## We're Here to Help!

Talk to your child's current school counselor throughout the process.

## [schools.nyc.gov/FWC](https://schools.nyc.gov/FWC)

You can also make an appointment with a Family Welcome Center or call us at 718-935-2009 to get personalized support.



## Admissions Checklist

### Explore and Learn

- Log in to [MySchools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc.gov) to explore your child's high school options. If you need help accessing your account, talk to your child's school counselor or a Family Welcome Center.
- Attend one of our Virtual Information Sessions. Information on how to join will be posted on our website when the application opens: [schools.nyc.gov/HS](https://schools.nyc.gov/HS).
- Use the MySchools Events Calendar to learn about schools' events. Be sure to also check schools' websites for more information.

### Apply

- Apply to high school by the deadline listed on [schools.nyc.gov/HS](https://schools.nyc.gov/HS).
  - List 12 or more programs in your true order of preference, with your favorite choice as #1.
  - Some programs may require an audition or assessment. Learn more at [schools.nyc.gov/HSAuditions](https://schools.nyc.gov/HSAuditions) and [schools.nyc.gov/AssessmentHS](https://schools.nyc.gov/AssessmentHS).
- Register for the SHSAT by the deadline listed on [schools.nyc.gov/SHS](https://schools.nyc.gov/SHS).
- Apply and submit your child's audition for LaGuardia High School.
- Submit one of the following ways:
  - Online with [MySchools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc.gov) – Recommended!
  - Through your child's current school counselor
  - By contacting a Family Welcome Center

### Get Your Offer

- Your child's offer letter will include admissions results, including any high school and/or Specialized High Schools offer(s). If they get more than one offer, you'll be given a deadline to choose between them.
- Add your child to additional waitlists (optional). If they get a waitlist offer, the program will contact you.

# Application Tips

Learn about these factors to better know your child's chances of getting an offer to each program that interests them. Then use these findings to build a balanced application—learn more at [schools.nyc.gov/HS](https://schools.nyc.gov/HS).

---

## Your Choices

The number of program choices you add to your application and the order in which you place them matter!

- Apply to 12 or more programs, all of which you are truly interested in your child attending. Students who list 12 or more choices are much more likely to receive an offer from their application. There is no limit to how many programs you may list.
- Place programs in your true order of preference. Schools will not know if they were your first or last choice. Your child will always be considered for their first-choice program first; if they don't get an offer there, they will be considered for their second-choice program as if it were their first choice, and so on.

---

## Your Child's Chances

MySchools projects for each applicant if they have a low, medium, or high chance of getting an offer to each high school program.

- Review your child's chances at each program of interest and ensure you are including at least some high-chance programs on the application, in your true order of preference.
- You are encouraged to list as many low- and medium- chance programs on the application as you like, as long as you are also including some high-chance programs.
- Programs that require an additional assessment or audition as part of their admissions process will not display your child's chance of an offer. If you are interested in these programs, please list them in your true preference order, but be sure to include some high-chance programs as well.

---

## Each Program's

### Admissions Methods

A program's admissions method tells you how offers are made to its applicants, as well as what you need to do to apply.

- Learn more about these **admissions methods** on our website.
  - **Open or educational option (ed. opt.):** Applicants get offers based on random numbers, as in a lottery.
  - **Screened:** Applicants are grouped and/or ranked based on selection criteria.
  - **Screened with assessment:** Applicants are ranked based on a school-based assessment, and in some cases also their course grades.
  - **Audition:** Applicants are evaluated based solely on their auditions, then ranked by score; offers are made in ranked-number order. Academic records are not used to make offers to audition programs, except to LaGuardia High School, which uses a separate admissions process.
  - **Language criteria:** Applicants are evaluated by the school based on English language learning factors.
- If you are listing screened, screened with assessment, or audition programs on your child's application, consider also including programs that use an open or ed. opt. admissions method.