

**Resolution Urging the Panel for Educational Policy to Ensure Continuity in
the Administration of the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test by
Approving the Pearson Assessment Contract**

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WHEREAS, the Panel for Education Policy (“PEP”) was initially set to consider a vote to approve a new five-year contract with NCS Pearson, Inc. (“Pearson”) to provide a standardized testing program for the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (“SHSAT”). It was delayed to Nov. meeting but postponed again to Dec meeting now.

WHEREAS, as per the Hecht-Calandra Act, admission to New York City Public Schools (“NYCPS”)’ Specialized High Schools (“SHS”) must be determined *“solely and exclusively by taking a competitive, objective, and scholastic achievement examination.”* Failure to enter into a new contract with a vendor would put Specialized High Schools in a position of not having the legally required test to admit their Freshmen class for the fall of 2026.

WHEREAS, the Hecht-Calandra Act was codified by New York State in 1971 to mandate the admissions process for New York City’s Specialized High Schools, now including 8 SHS enrolling over 16,000 students: Bronx High School of Science (enrollment ~3,000), Brooklyn Latin School (enrollment ~800), Brooklyn Technical High School (enrollment ~6,000), High School for Math, Science and Engineering at City College (enrollment ~500), High School of American Studies at Lehman College (enrollment ~400), Queens High School for the Sciences at York College (enrollment ~700), Staten Island Technical High School (enrollment ~1,400), and Stuyvesant High School (enrollment ~3,300).

WHEREAS, NYCPS conducted a Request for Proposal in the fall of 2023 seeking vendors for the test, which yielded two submissions: Pearson and Educational Testing Services. Upon review and further negotiation, NYCPS determined that Pearson’s proposal was the most attractive both from a pricing perspective and from a quality standpoint.

WHEREAS, since the COVID-19 pandemic, NYC Public School families have endured annual changes to high school admissions, throughout this time period, the semi-permanence of a multi-year contract for administering the SHSAT has continued to provide an objective and consistent entry point in the NYCPS 8 set aside test entry Specialized High Schools in conjunction with its 1 audition based Specialized High School Fiorello H LaGuardia.

WHEREAS, NYC Public Schools has not offered a viable objective alternative to the test as an entry point into Specialized High Schools, and the high school application process currently allows students up to 3 high school spots based on the lottery based General Application, the test based Specialized High School Application, and the Audition based Specialized LaGuardia Application.

WHEREAS, the new SHSAT format proposed by Pearson is computerized and adaptive, in line with the recent changes in other standardized tests including the New York State Test , SAT , AP and soon ACT.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that Community Education Council 28 (CEC 28) demands the Panel for Educational Policy approves the Pearson Assessments contract, thereby avoiding any material disruption to future admissions cycles and avoiding direct harm to students who have been studying for the SHSAT.

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that CEC 28 urges NYCPS to work with Pearson to ensure that families interested in reviewing their child's SHSAT test still have the ability to do so with the new computerized format