

Community Education Council District 28

Resolution Opposing District 2/Manhattan High School Admissions Priority

APPROVED at the September 5, 2024 Calendar Meeting by a vote of the CEC D28 members present at the time of the vote (10 in favor / 1 opposed / 0 abstain / 1 absent)

Sponsor: Simone Dornbach, Quentin Mezetin, Tanya Wendt

Co-Sponsor: Nathifa Lewis, Vijah Ramjattan, Kalyanaram Gurumurthy, Lauren Clavin

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2024 New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) Chancellor David C. Banks announced that he would reinstate “some kind of priority” for students in District 2 in high school admissions.¹²³

WHEREAS, the NYCPS Office of District Planning reported in its Fall 2023 Manhattan High School Data Summary Report that, in respect of Manhattan, “there is an excess of high school seats in all districts, particularly in District 2.”⁴

WHEREAS, with a total high school enrollment of 32,471 students and total capacity of 41,922 seats, District 2 has an excess high school capacity of 9,451 seats, more than any other community school district in the NYCPS system.⁵

¹ Elsen-Rooney, M. (2024, May 3) “NYC to Restore a Controversial Admissions Boost for Manhattan Students, Banks Says,” Chalkbeat.
<https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2024/05/03/high-school-admissions-priority-for-manhattan-district-2-could-return-under-david-banks/>

² Jessica Gould, J. (2024, May 3) “NYC to Restore High School Admissions Advantage for Some Manhattan Students,” Gothamist.
<https://gothamist.com/news/nyc-to-restore-high-school-admissions-advantage-for-some-manhattan-students>

³ Elsen-Rooney, M. (2024, June 7). Manhattan students may get admissions boost at some of NYC’s most competitive high schools. Chalkbeat.
<https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2024/06/07/education-officials-weigh-school-admissions-boost-for-manhattan-students/>

⁴ NYC Department of Education Office of District Planning, “Manhattan High School Data Summary: 2024-2025 Strategic Planning Data Considerations,” Fall 2023
(<https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/manhattan-high-school-data-summary.pdf>), p. 16.

⁵ Ibid. For data on other districts, see NYC Department of Education Office of District Planning, “Brooklyn High School Data Summary” (<https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/brooklyn-high-school-data-summary.pdf>), p. 17; “Queens High School Data Summary” (<https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/queens-high-sc>

WHEREAS, the Office of District Planning reported in its Fall 2023 Queens High School Data Summary Report that Queens has a deficit of 863 high school seats.⁶

WHEREAS, the Office of District Planning has reported that District 28 alone has a deficit of 426 high school seats, while neighboring District 25 has a deficit of 1,099 high school seats, and District 26 has a deficit of 2,351 high school seats.⁷

WHEREAS, the Office of District Planning has warned that Districts 25, 26, and 28 are “serving more students than the buildings have capacity for. Schools in these buildings may experience high demand and overcrowding, and therefore maybe programming creatively to accommodate students.”⁸

WHEREAS, the number of excess high school seats in District 2 is more than adequate to cover the entire deficit of high school seats in Queens, and continued access to those seats by out of district students eases pressure on overcrowding in adjacent and nearby districts, including those in Queens.

WHEREAS, any reinstatement of district priority in high school admissions for students in District 2 or implementation of borough priority for students in Manhattan would result in fewer choices of high school opportunities for students in District 28 and elsewhere in Queens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District 28 Community Education Council urges Chancellor Banks to reconsider his stated intent to grant geographic priority in high school admissions to students in District 2 or to students in Manhattan until the Office of Student Enrollment and the Office of District Planning can provide a detailed analysis of the impact of those changes in admissions priorities on high school admissions citywide.

[hool-data-summary.pdf](https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/staten-island-high-school-data-summary.pdf)), p. 15; “Staten Island High School Data Summary” (<https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/staten-island-high-school-data-summary.pdf>), p. 13; “Bronx High School Data Summary” (<https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/bronx-high-school-data-summary.pdf>), p. 15.

⁶ “Queens High School Data Summary,” p. 15.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.