

# NYC SPECIALIZED HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

CHIEN KWOK, CEC D2 Treasurer & PLACE NYC co-Founder

**Wednesday, October 13, 2021**



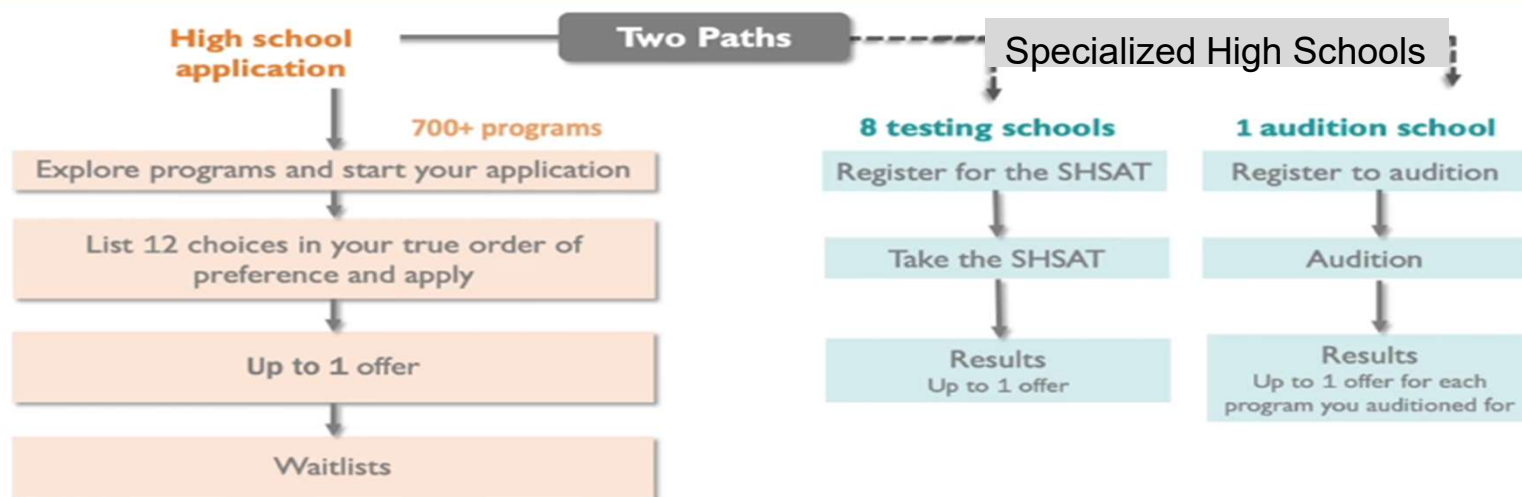
# ABOUT ME

- NYC public school parent
- Immigrant
- Brooklyn Technical High School graduate
- CEC D2 Member & Treasurer
- Co-Founder of PLACE NYC, a 100% volunteer parent-led education advocacy organization
- 100% volunteer

# AGENDA

- **High School Application: Two Paths**
- **The Application and the Offer**
- **Your High School Options**
- **The Specialized High Schools**
- **When to Apply**
- **What You Can Do Now**

# HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATION: TWO PATHS



<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/specialized-high-schools>



# THE APPLICATION AND THE OFFER

## Application:

**Mandatory: High School Application – List up to 12 schools/programs**

**Optional : The Specialized High Schools**

- Register to take the SHSAT; rank up to 8 schools
- Register to audition for any/all 6 programs at LaGuardia HS

## ONE Offer Letter:

- Offer to one of the high schools plus info on waitlist
- If you took the SHSAT or auditioned for LaGuardia, you may receive an offer to a specialized HS and/or one of the La Guardia programs you auditioned.

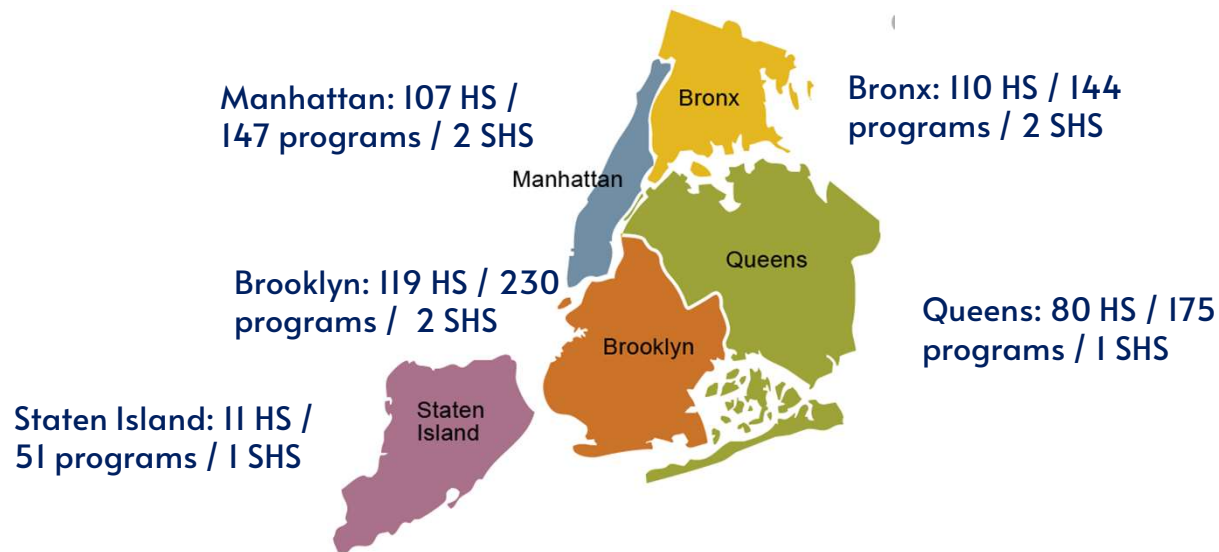
**ACCEPT Offer - decide among the offer(s)**

**WAITLIST for non-specialized high schools only**

# YOUR NYC HIGH SCHOOLS OPTIONS

Over 400 high schools with > 700 programs

9 Specialized High Schools: 8 SHSAT, 1 Audition



# THE SPECIALIZED HIGH SCHOOLS

1. The Bronx High School of Science
2. The Brooklyn Latin School
3. Brooklyn Technical High School
4. High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College of New York
5. High School of American Studies at Lehman College
6. Queens High School for Sciences at York College
7. Staten Island Technical School
8. Stuyvesant High School
9. Fiorella H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts
  - Fine & Visual Art
  - Vocal Music
  - Instrumental Music
  - Dance
  - Drama
  - Technical Theater

# SPECIALIZED HIGH SCHOOLS: SHSAT AND AUDITION

How are students admitted to the testing  
Specialized High Schools?

SHSAT score



School preference order



Available seats at each school



## SIX Arts Programs



Dance

Drama



Instrumental Music

Fine and Visual Art



Technical Theater

Vocal Music



28,000 Test  
Takers

- 5,000  
Offers

5,000  
Auditions

- 1,000  
offers



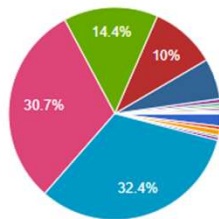


# PLACE NYC PARENT SURVEYS

How is your child preparing for the SHSAT?		
On his/her own: SHSAT study guides	120	48%
Enrolling in a private test prep center	76	31%
Participating in the DOE's DREAM program	31	13%
Doing private tutoring	21	8%
	248	100%

How long has your child been studying for the SHSAT? | 请问您的孩子为SHSAT考试做了多长时间的准备? | ¿Cuánto tiempo su niño ha estado estudiando para el SHSAT? | আপনার শিশু কতদিন ধরে পরীক্ষার জন্য পড়াশোনা করছে?

938 responses



32% 1 YEAR

31% 2+ YEARS

14% 6-MONTHS


10% HAD NOT STUDIED YET

6% 3-MONTHS



# WHEN TO APPLY (I)

## Happening Next

In mid-October, each student will receive a personalized welcome letter by mail; this letter includes information on how to access your [MySchools](#)  account and participate in high school and Specialized High Schools admissions. You can also request a copy of this letter from your school counselor.


<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/specialized-high-schools>

## How to Apply to the Eight Testing Specialized High Schools

- **NOW - Prepare for the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT).** Use these [2022 practice materials](#) and the [SHSAT website](#) to help prepare for test day. Information about testing accommodations is available in the [High School and Specialized High Schools Admissions Guide](#).
- **Register for the SHSAT by November 15, 2021.** Registration will open in mid-October 2021, after welcome letters are available.
- **Test.** All registered students will take the SHSAT in December 2021.
  - Registered 8th grade students who attend a public DOE middle school will test at their current school during the school day on **Thursday, December 2.**
  - Registered 8th grade students who attend charter, private, parochial, or independent schools, or who are homeschooled will test at a [central DOE location](#) on **Sunday, December 5, or Saturday, December 11.**
  - All registered 9th grade students will test at a **central DOE location** on [central DOE location](#) **Saturday, December 11, or Sunday, December 12.**

# WHEN TO APPLY (2)

## How to Apply to the One Audition Specialized High School

Interested in applying to programs at Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts? Learn how to prepare for auditions at [laguardiahs.org](https://laguardiahs.org) . We'll provide updates soon on how and when to register for auditions and audition for this school.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/specialized-high-schools>

# FREE SHSAT PREP: DREAM PROGRAM

Here is a summary of how the DREAM application process works.

DREAM identifies eligible 7th grade students and invites them to participate in the program.

Traditionally, letter is sent in late fall.

Families or schools do not have to submit any documents on the behalf of the student. DREAM uses information directly from the DOE.

Eligibility is based on a set of criteria. Last program's criteria can be viewed <https://www.Schools.Nyc.Gov/learning/programs/dream-program>. Please note, criteria can change every year.

If a child did not receive an invitation letter it may mean they were not found eligible.

## Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for DREAM-SHSI students must meet all of the criteria in Part A, and one of the criteria in Part B:

### Part A

Students must:

- Be a current NYC resident
- Be enrolled in the seventh grade in a DOE public or charter school
- Score a minimum of:
  - 3.0 on the 2019 grade five English Language Arts, and
  - 3.75 on the 2019 grade five Mathematics NY State tests

### Part B

Students must EITHER:

- Meet income requirements based on federal guidelines, as informed by the [family income inquiry form](#), regardless of district of residence.

OR

- Live or attend school in NYC school district 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, or 32.

## Program

July and August for students who just finished grade 7, Monday–Thursday for five weeks  
September–October of eighth grade, Saturdays only



# DISCOVERY PROGRAM

Discovery program is a summer enrichment program for rising ninth grade students who take the SHSAT and score right below the cutoff score.

20% of SHS seats are set aside for DISCOVERY.

## Eligibility:

- > Student from a low-income household, a student in temporary housing, or an English language learner who moved to NYC within the past four years; and
- > Have scored within a certain range below the cutoff score on the SHSAT; and
- > Attend a high-poverty school.

-----

If you do not get a SHS offer, you may receive an invitation to the Discovery program.

# WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Keep up with school work

Take the state tests in the spring

Talk about high schools

Consider strengthening math / ELA

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Look out for DREAM program invitation

Research test prep / tutoring; many have financial aid or scholarships

Decide on how you will prepare

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Sign up for admissions DOE emails

Schedule an appointment with your guidance counselor

Research the high schools

Study for the SHSAT

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

There are seats for entering 9<sup>th</sup> graders

# MAKE YOUR LIST & PREPARE

## Sign Up for DOE Enrollment Emails

- [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/IFAlpQLSdMBereJO\\_FYx9dgZ2FdYCvpJ8c2FQ7pU0aSIBVPmsTYAmQuw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/IFAlpQLSdMBereJO_FYx9dgZ2FdYCvpJ8c2FQ7pU0aSIBVPmsTYAmQuw/viewform)

## Research

- The DOE suggests that you make a list of 20-30 high schools/programs.
- You will rank up to 12 schools/programs on the mandatory High School Application.
- You will rank up to 8 specialized high schools.

## Prepare

### Study for the SHSAT

There are 2 practice tests in the HS/SHS handbook on the DOE website, and can download the practice tests.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/specialized-high-schools/#2022PracticeMaterials>

## Questions

- Talk to your child's current school counselor or email [HSEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:HSEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov)

## Join PLACE NYC ([placenyc.org](http://placenyc.org))

- Subscribe to our email newsletters or join our Facebook group