

NYC High School Applications for Fall 2026

A Parent-to-Parent Conversation

November 5, 2025



Program

- Introduction
- Short Presentation on High School Application
- Q&As
- Useful Appendices

Our Parent Panel

1. Debbie Kross, Deborah Alexander, Yiatin Chu – General HS

Application Experience

2. Jean Hahn

3. Clive Liew

4. Pree Boparai



Key Dates

- High school application opened on 10/7
- SHSAT registration and ranking were due 10/31
- SHSAT test dates: 11/12 (NYCPS 8th graders taking the test in their MS) 11/15 and 16 (other 8th graders), and 11/22 and 23 (9th graders)
- Submit application (incl. assessments / auditions) by 12/3
- Offers will be out on 3/5/2026
- Waitlists: open 3/5/2026 $\Rightarrow$ till 2 weeks after school starts.
 - “Rolling Offers” over the summer - monitor MySchools



Application Process

- Open MySchools account* www.myschools.nyc
- Register for the SHSAT (deadline passed)
- Research schools online on MySchools
- Attend school open houses in November
- Apply to as many schools as you want; submit auditions

**current NYCPS 8th graders already have one*

Private School, Charter School, and Homeschooled students must create an account



Applying in 9th Grade

- All the information provided tonight is valid for 9th graders applying for a new school in 10th grade
- Various reasons to apply (not happy; move; transfer from private to public...)
- Seats open in SHS (“9th grade SHSAT”) and in non-SHS
- For non SHS, **MySchools will explicitly say if there are 10th grade seats**

PSAL SPORTS - BOYS

Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Soccer, Volleyball

Accessibility

Fully Accessible

[Building Accessibility Profile](#)

Other Features

- 10th Grade Seats Available
- College Courses Offered
- College Courses On Site
- College Trips
- Community Service Expected
- Computer Science Coursework
- Expert College and Career Advisor On Staff
- Financial Literacy Coursework
- Health Center
- Internships



NYC High School Applications

High School Application (unlimited number) <u>REQUIRED</u>	Specialized High Schools SHSAT (up to 8) <i>OPTIONAL</i>	LaGuardia High School Audition (up to 6) <i>OPTIONAL</i>
• Screened • Audition • EdOpt • Open • Zoned	1. Bronx High School of Science 2. Brooklyn Latin School 3. Stuyvesant High School 4. Brooklyn Technical High School. 5. High School for Math, Science and Engineering at City College 6. High School of American Studies at Lehman College 7. Queens High School for the Sciences at York College 8. Staten Island Technical High School	• Fine & Visual Art • Vocal Music • Instrumental Music • Dance • Drama • Technical Theater

Charter Schools are another option – it is free for your student to attend; they accept students by lottery.



Your Student

Admissions Priorities

- Where you live: zone or geographic priority
- Income: Low income students may qualify for DIA (Diversity in Admissions)
- Seat Category: Gen Ed, Student w/Disability (SWD)
- Current School: continuing 6-12 provides priority to continuing students

Academics, Talent, Skills

- GPA → Group 1-5 (Screened programs)
- Assessment (test, essays, interviews...)
- Tier: High, Med, Low (EdOpt programs = schools that create an “academically balanced” pool of students)
- Talent assessed through auditions

Lottery Number

- Used when there are more applicants than seats
- Matters less for Auditions schools (although used as tie-breaker)



The Schools / Programs

New York City has over 400 HS, and 700 programs. One school may have several programs.

You are applying to PROGRAMS (you may rank two programs in the same school)

Considerations:

- Location - commute, safety, building considerations (colocation, accessibility...)
- Admissions method - zoned, open, EdOpt, screened, audition, SHSAT
- Academics - course offerings, APs, College classes, electives, graduation rates
- Specialties / partnerships - STEM, arts, Career & Technical Education, writing
- Extracurriculars - sports (PSAL), clubs
- Size - large, small
- “Social” consideration of attending a 6-12



Lottery Number: how does it impact me?

- Each student is assigned an initial random lottery number, visible in your child's profile page (name / address / district info...)
- It is a long string of numbers / letters but only the first 2 matter:
 - **4f**-6ad98086b56fa9, **a5**-f6e780ad08bb09
 - Best: start with 0, 1, 2..... worst start with letters (d, e, f) – see Appendix
- Lottery number is used within screened groups when there are more applicants than seats; lottery number is also used to break ties
 - “Bad” lottery numbers matter for screened schools with no assessment, and also for EdOpt schools
 - They may be mitigated in audition and screened with assessment programs applications
- Lottery numbers are NOT used for Specialized High Schools
- You get a new lottery number for **waitlists**



How are offers being made?

- **Distinct GenEd and SWD “buckets” of seats, and with different applicants / seat stats.**
 - Your child applies for a seat in one of those buckets
- **Schools “over-offer” seats based on historical yield**
 - Some students take a Specialized HS offer, or exit the NYCPS system altogether in High School
 - Size of the class can vary year-over-year
 - The yield determines whether or not there are waitlist offers
- **How the DIA priority works:**
 - Only the first round offers target the % of DIA
 - Waitlist offers do not take DIA % into consideration
 - For 6-12: applies only to new students (not continuing)



How to predict your odds

- Newly development DOE tools with “bars” - predict admissions based on lottery number (but limited to schools where there is no assessment / no audition as the tool cannot predict how your child might score)
- <https://nycsift.com/>
- Crowdsourced lottery number max/min for offers:
<https://medium.com/algorithms-in-the-wild/results-from-the-2025-nyc-school-admission-lottery-surveys-cd12340b3364>



What Should I Do Now?

- **Research schools**

- To the extent possible, [go to open houses](#) - virtual and in-person (in person is better for the “vibe” and to get a sense of the commute). Your child should go
- Speak to current students and parents (some alumni from your MS would be willing to chat about their experience)

- **Make your list:**

- You are no longer limited to 12 schools, you may include how many as you would like
- Rank any school that is preferable to one the DOE would randomly pick for you
- Include your zoned school if you have one (found on your Profile page)
- Rank in order of true preference

- **Submit assessment and audition files by 12/3**

- Don't wait till 11.57PM as there are bugs, always!



Troubleshooting common problems

- **I missed the only open house for a school my child is interested in!**
 - Call the parent coordinator at the school, you never know...
 - Attend an event (performing arts school, concert, PTA meeting...)
- **My child's lottery number is awful!**
 - Mitigate it in the first round by not picking solely screened schools without assessments
 - Play the Waitlist Game - as you will get a new number
- **My child missed Group 1 and has no shot at a screened school!**
 - Some screened schools “dip” into Group 2
 - Mitigate with assessment for schools that have one
 - Consider EdOpt and Open HS - many have APs / honors

Ask Us Anything!

Q & A

Appendices

1. Hidden Gems in the 5 boroughs
2. Screened programs with additional material
3. Audition Schools
4. Screened admissions GPA “Tiers”
5. Lottery Numbers
6. Diversity in Admissions (“DIA”) programs

Hidden Gems from Our Parent Panel

MANHATTAN

High School for Language and Diplomacy

Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics

Richard R. Green High School of Teaching

High School for Environmental Studies

Food and Finance High School

Landmark High School

Frank McCourt High School

Quest to Learn

Murray Hill Academy

University Neighborhood

Essex Street Academy

New York Harbor School (on Governor's Island)

QUEENS

Forest Hills High School (Carl Sagan program)

Benjamin Cardozo (DaVinci program)

Aviation High School

Thomas Edison

Energy Tech High School

Gotham Tech

Motion Picture Tech

Academy of American Studies

Northwell School of Health Sciences

HBCU Early College Prep

Young Women's Leadership Schools (multiple locations:
Astoria, Harlem, Brooklyn, Bronx)

Urban Assembly Schools (multiple locations:
<https://www.urbanassembly.org/who-we-serve/school-map>)



(cont'd)

BROOKLYN

Brooklyn College Academy

High School of Telecommunication
Arts and Technology

All City Leadership Secondary School

Williamsburg High School for
Architecture and Design

Boerum Hill HS for International
Studies

Design Works

Bard Brooklyn

BRONX

Bronx Center for Science and
Mathematics

Bard High School – Bronx

Fordham High School for the Arts

Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music

Dewitt Clinton

Marble Hill HS of International Studies

University Heights Secondary School

Young Women's Leadership (multiple
locations)

STATEN ISLAND

Gaynor McCown Expeditionary
Learning School

CSI High School for International
Studies

Susan E. Wagner High School

Curtis High School



2025 Screened Admissions w/ Additional Requirements

25 schools have additional requirements such as essay, interview, online activity... Some completed in person, some to be submitted via MySchools
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/high-school/assessments-for-screened-schools>

MANHATTAN:

1. NEST+m
2. Frank McCourt High School
3. Beacon High School
4. Manhattan / Hunter Science High School
5. Gramercy Arts HS
6. NYC iSchool
7. Bard Manhattan
- + The 3 Manhattan Consortium Schools

Consortium Schools (3 in Manhattan, 1 in the Bronx) have the same assessment:

1. East Side Community School (M)
2. Institute for Collaborative Education (M)
3. School of the Future HS (M)
4. University High Secondary School (Bx)

The four Bard Schools (Manhattan, Queens, Bronx, Brooklyn) have the same assessment as well



2025 Screened Admissions w/ Additional Requirements

Continued

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/high-school/assessments-for-screened-schools>

QUEENS

1. Townsend Harris High School
2. Bayside High School
3. Baccalaureate School for Global Education
4. HBCU Early College Prep
5. Bard Queens (see prior page)

BROOKLYN

1. Science, Technology and Research Early College HS
2. Medgar Evers College Prep School
3. Kingsborough Early College
4. Brooklyn College Academy
5. Bard Brooklyn (see prior page)

BRONX

1. Bronx Early College Academy for Teaching & Learning
2. Young Women's Leadership School of the Bronx
3. In-Tech Academy
4. Bard Bronx (see prior page)
5. University High Secondary School (Consortium - see prior page)



Audition Schools

25 high schools - all have virtual submission option (upload through MySchools) and some also now have an in-person option. Possible “callbacks”

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/HSAuditions>

QUEENS

1. Frank Sinatra HS
2. Hillcrest HS
3. Forest Hills HS
4. Bayside HS
5. Cardozo HS
6. Queens Technical HS
7. Newtown HS

STATEN ISLAND

1. Susan E. Wagner HS

BROOKLYN

1. Dr Susan Mc Kinney
Secondary School of the Arts
2. Brooklyn HS of the Arts
3. Fort Hamilton HS
4. Abraham Lincoln HS
5. Edward R. Murrow HS

BRONX

1. Theater Arts Production Co
2. Fordham HS for the Arts
3. Celia Cruz Bronx School of Music

MANHATTAN

1. Fiorello La Guardia
2. Gramercy Arts HS
3. Professional Performing Arts HS
4. Talent Unlimited
5. Art & Design HS
6. Repertory Company HS for Theater Arts
7. HS for Fashion Industries
8. Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing & Visual Arts
9. Special Music School



2025 Screened Admissions

Based on 7th grade final report card grades in core subjects: math, ELA, social studies and science; no state tests, no attendance.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
Top 15% Citywide or School	Top 30% Citywide or School	Top 50% Citywide or School	Top 70% Citywide or School	Others
≥ 94.33	≥ 90.25	≥ 83.33	≥ 76.66	< 76.66
Min average of 90	Min Average of 80	Min Average of 75	Min Average of 65	n/a

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/ScreenedHS>



What Does My Lottery Number Mean

First two characters of NYC school admission random numbers – Percent of students with same number or better
(theoretical distribution)

00	0.4%	20	12.9%	40	25.4%	60	37.9%	80	50.4%	a0	62.9%	c0	75.4%	e0	87.9%
01	0.8%	21	13.3%	41	25.8%	61	38.3%	81	50.8%	a1	63.3%	c1	75.8%	e1	88.3%
02	1.2%	22	13.7%	42	26.2%	62	38.7%	82	51.2%	a2	63.7%	c2	76.2%	e2	88.7%
03	1.6%	23	14.1%	43	26.6%	63	39.1%	83	51.6%	a3	64.1%	c3	76.6%	e3	89.1%
04	2.0%	24	14.5%	44	27.0%	64	39.5%	84	52.0%	a4	64.5%	c4	77.0%	e4	89.5%
05	2.3%	25	14.8%	45	27.3%	65	39.8%	85	52.3%	a5	64.8%	c5	77.3%	e5	89.8%
06	2.7%	26	15.2%	46	27.7%	66	40.2%	86	52.7%	a6	65.2%	c6	77.7%	e6	90.2%
07	3.1%	27	15.6%	47	28.1%	67	40.6%	87	53.1%	a7	65.6%	c7	78.1%	e7	90.6%
08	3.5%	28	16.0%	48	28.5%	68	41.0%	88	53.5%	a8	66.0%	c8	78.5%	e8	91.0%
09	3.9%	29	16.4%	49	28.9%	69	41.4%	89	53.9%	a9	66.4%	c9	78.9%	e9	91.4%
0a	4.3%	2a	16.8%	4a	29.3%	6a	41.8%	8a	54.3%	aa	66.8%	ca	79.3%	ea	91.8%
0b	4.7%	2b	17.2%	4b	29.7%	6b	42.2%	8b	54.7%	ab	67.2%	cb	79.7%	eb	92.2%
0c	5.1%	2c	17.6%	4c	30.1%	6c	42.6%	8c	55.1%	ac	67.6%	cc	80.1%	ec	92.6%
0d	5.5%	2d	18.0%	4d	30.5%	6d	43.0%	8d	55.5%	ad	68.0%	cd	80.5%	ed	93.0%
0e	5.9%	2e	18.4%	4e	30.9%	6e	43.4%	8e	55.9%	ae	68.4%	ce	80.9%	ee	93.4%
0f	6.3%	2f	18.8%	4f	31.3%	6f	43.8%	8f	56.3%	af	68.8%	cf	81.3%	ef	93.8%
10	6.6%	30	19.1%	50	31.6%	70	44.1%	90	56.6%	b0	69.1%	d0	81.6%	f0	94.1%
11	7.0%	31	19.5%	51	32.0%	71	44.5%	91	57.0%	b1	69.5%	d1	82.0%	f1	94.5%
12	7.4%	32	19.9%	52	32.4%	72	44.9%	92	57.4%	b2	69.9%	d2	82.4%	f2	94.9%
13	7.8%	33	20.3%	53	32.8%	73	45.3%	93	57.8%	b3	70.3%	d3	82.8%	f3	95.3%
14	8.2%	34	20.7%	54	33.2%	74	45.7%	94	58.2%	b4	70.7%	d4	83.2%	f4	95.7%
15	8.6%	35	21.1%	55	33.6%	75	46.1%	95	58.6%	b5	71.1%	d5	83.6%	f5	96.1%
16	9.0%	36	21.5%	56	34.0%	76	46.5%	96	59.0%	b6	71.5%	d6	84.0%	f6	96.5%
17	9.4%	37	21.9%	57	34.4%	77	46.9%	97	59.4%	b7	71.9%	d7	84.4%	f7	96.9%
18	9.8%	38	22.3%	58	34.8%	78	47.3%	98	59.8%	b8	72.3%	d8	84.8%	f8	97.3%
19	10.2%	39	22.7%	59	35.2%	79	47.7%	99	60.2%	b9	72.7%	d9	85.2%	f9	97.7%
1a	10.5%	3a	23.0%	5a	35.5%	7a	48.0%	9a	60.5%	ba	73.0%	da	85.5%	fa	98.0%
1b	10.9%	3b	23.4%	5b	35.9%	7b	48.4%	9b	60.9%	bb	73.4%	db	85.9%	fb	98.4%
1c	11.3%	3c	23.8%	5c	36.3%	7c	48.8%	9c	61.3%	bc	73.8%	dc	86.3%	fc	98.8%
1d	11.7%	3d	24.2%	5d	36.7%	7d	49.2%	9d	61.7%	bd	74.2%	dd	86.7%	fd	99.2%
1e	12.1%	3e	24.6%	5e	37.1%	7e	49.6%	9e	62.1%	be	74.6%	de	87.1%	fe	99.6%
1f	12.5%	3f	25.0%	5f	37.5%	7f	50.0%	9f	62.5%	bf	75.0%	df	87.5%	ff	100.0%

Theoretical Percentiles of the two first characters of the lottery numbers



Diversity in Admissions Schools

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/meeting-student-needs/diversity-in-admissions>

1. **University Neighborhood High School** (01M448) | Priority to applicants eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch (based on family income) for 68% of seats.
2. **East Side Community School** (01M450) | 70% of seats.
3. **NEST+m** (01M539) | 66% of seats, *only applies to seats for non-continuing students.*
4. **Bard High School Early College** (01M696) | 50% of seats.
5. **The Clinton School** (02M260) | 33% of seats.
6. **Urban Assembly Maker Academy** (02M282) | 70% of seats.
7. **Essex Street Academy** (02M294) | 50% of seats.
8. **NYC iSchool** (02M376) | 66% of seats.
9. **Institute for Collaborative Education** (02M407) | 66% of seats.
10. **Baruch College Campus High School** (02M411) | 66% of seats.
11. **N.Y.C. Lab School for Collaborative Studies** (02M412) | 75% of seats.
12. **School of the Future High School** (02M413) | 66% of seats.

1. **N.Y.C. Museum School** (02M414) | 50% of seats
2. **Eleanor Roosevelt High School** (02M416) | 50% of seats.
3. **Repertory Company High School for Theatre Arts** (02M531) | 40% of seats.
4. **Harvest Collegiate High School** (02M534) | 63% of seats.
5. **Academy for Software Engineering** (02M546) | 69% of seats.
6. **Urban Assembly New York Harbor School** (02M551) | 69% of seats.
7. **West End Secondary School** (03M291) | 60% of seats.
8. **Frank McCourt High School** (03M417) | 66% of seats.
9. **Beacon High School** (03M479) | 66% of seats.
10. **Manhattan / Hunter Science High School** (03M541) | 69% of seats.
11. **Park East High School** (04M495) | 66% of seats.
12. **Central Park East High School** (04M555) | 66% of seats.
13. **The Heritage School** (04M680) | Priority to District 4 residents eligible for FRL for 43% of seats.



Diversity in Admissions Schools (Cont'd)

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/meeting-student-needs/diversity-in-admissions>

BRONX

1. **Young Women's Leadership School of the Bronx** (09X568) | Priority to applicants eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch (based on family income) for 88% of seats.
2. **In-Tech Academy** (10X368) | Priority to applicants eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch (based on family income) for 88% of seats.

QUEENS

1. **Bard Queens** (24Q299) | 73%
2. **Townsend Harris High School** (25Q525) | 50%
3. **Bayside HS** (26Q495) | 75%
4. **HS for Construction Trades, Engineering, and Architecture** (27Q650) | 72%
5. **Academy for Careers in Television and Film** (30Q301) | 63%
6. **Motion Picture Tech** (30Q367) | 63%

BROOKLYN

1. **Urban Assembly High School of Music and Art** (13K350) | 69% of seats.
2. **Urban Assembly Institute of Math and Science for Young Women** (13K527) | ELL priority for 18% of seats.
3. **Design Works High School** (13K963) | 57% of seats.
4. **Williamsburg High School for Architecture and Design** (14K558) | 63% of seats.
5. **Williamsburg Preparatory School** (14K561) | 76% of seats.
6. **Brooklyn Collaborative Studies** (15K448) | Priority to applicants eligible for FRL, STH or ELL for 76% of seats.
7. **Millennium Brooklyn High School** (15K684) | 66% of seats
8. **Medgar Evers College Preparatory School** (17K590) | 76% of seats.
9. **Kingsborough Early College School** (21K468) | 76% of seats.
10. **Midwood High School** (22K405) | 70% of seats.
11. **Leon M. Goldstein High School for the Sciences** (22K535) | Students admitted in rank order by zip code.
12. **Brooklyn College Academy** (22K555) | 76% of seats.

