

NYC High School Offers Are Out: What Next?

A Parent-to-Parent Conversation

March 8, 2026



Happy – and possibly overwhelmed

How to get more information?

1. Attend the admitted students open-house (very different from fall tours)
2. Attend a school event if any (shows, PTA meeting...)
3. Contact the parent coordinator
4. Get in touch with families / students from your Middle School
5. Online resources (Applying to HS Facebook group)

Consider:

- Commute
- Size of the school
- Rigor / homework load
- After school clubs /sports
- Unique offerings (majors, college classes, partnerships...)
- How the school will address your child's unique needs (e.g., IEP)
- "Vibe"
- Colleges kids attend

Disappointed or Unhappy?

Alternatives to Public Schools:

- Private/parochial: contact individual schools, even if you did not test/apply earlier
- Charter schools: Apply by April 1, results in April: -
 - <https://findnyccharterschools.org/> is the central site to apply to all charter
 - Charter schools are free and require no testing, lottery application
 - MESA in Sunset Park, Brooklyn and Vertex Academy in Parkchester, Bronx are two rigorous options
 - The charter needs to be good fit for your child and your family
- Homeschooling: need to abide by a strict framework starting with a “letter of Intent”

You can pursue these options while still working on waitlists for public HS

Disappointed or Unhappy: Waitlists

Centrally managed through MySchools (not by indiv schools)

- You are automatically added to the waitlist for choices above your offer
- You may also add your student to more schools – there is no downside, but understand your odds (see Q&As)
- You have a new Random Number for each waitlist – which is great if you had a bad number for the “main round”
- Priorities and other students applying make your child’s position on the waitlists fluctuate
- NO waitlists for SHSAT schools and LaGuardia HS

Waitlists Q&As (1/4)

1. How many schools can I add to my waitlist?	Unlimited number – including schools that you had ranked lower on your list if you have a “change of heart”, and new schools you did not include initially
2. WHEN do waitlists “move”?	They are already moving, but for students who got multiple offers (SHS and / or LaG), they must choose by 4/13 so there will be movement then, and then smaller movement through mid September. You may get an offer very late
3. Why is my waitlist not moving? Will it ever move?	Some schools make no waitlist offers. Initial offers in the “main round” always exceed the number of seats available. Schools estimate offers based on historical yield. They know a certain % of admitted students will pick another option (SHS, LaG, private...)

Waitlists Q&As (2/4)

4. Why does my position on the waitlist getting worse?	Because other students are also adding themselves and may have a higher priority (e.g. zoned, or have a higher assessment or audition grade)
5. Should I accept a WL offer if I prefer another school?	Yes. You remain on your other waitlists and may receive other offers later
6. How do I know my odds and those numbers reliable?	In MySchools, one stat provided is how many waitlist offers a school made last year – but the past is not a great indication of the future.*

* You may also look at non-official sources (Pr. Amelie Marian's survey <https://medium.com/algorithms-in-the-wild/results-from-the-2025-nyc-school-admission-lottery-surveys-cd12340b3364> or SIFT <https://nycsift.com/data-all.phtml>) but these results are based on crowdsourced information and again on prior years, so not perfect

Waitlists Q&As (3/4)

<p>7. Should I just wait to maybe tour more schools before I add my child to waitlists?</p>	<p>No. There is a “timestamp” factor, and you should place your child on the waitlists as soon as they open. If in a few days you decide you are not interested, you may remove your name from the waitlist with just one click.</p>
<p>8. Is it worth applying to a school with supplemental essay / audition that your child did not provide?</p>	<p>Probably not as your child would rank AFTER every child who submitted the supplemental essay or audition</p>

Waitlists Q&As (4/4)

“I am reading the last page of the letter and something in my results still does not make sense (e.g. my assessment looks like it was not graded) - who should I contact?”

You may speak to your Middle School counselor but in the past, it was evident that they are not always the best trained nor up-to-date on rules.

What you should do is email HS enrollment Hsenrollment@schools.nyc.gov

- They reply to messages (but are getting a lot of them right now – be patient)
- Provide your child’s full name and OSIS number in the email

****** WAITLIST “ETIQUETTE”:*** *if you get an offer and know are not interested...*

Please release it! There is another kid anxiously waiting for this spot. ***



Applying in 10th Grade again

- Many schools accept students in 10th grade as they have seats (students never show up, or move out of NYC for instance), and many students transfer. Your child won't be the only "new kid"
- Application is the same (on MySchools) and in the fall of 2026. MySchools will tell you if a school has 10th grade seats or not, so you don't waste time and get false hopes
- Your child may re-take the SHSAT in [October 2026]*. There are fewer seats available for 10th grade entry and it is almost impossible to predict how many seats for each school (depends on many factors)
- *And some hope: many students not placed in their preferred school end up pleasantly surprised and decide to stay after they make new friends and settle in the HS routine*

**if so, start studying soon!*



Manhattan

Lower Manhattan - Midtown

- Richard R. Green High School of Teaching
- High School for Environmental Studies
- Landmark High School
- Quest to Learn
- Facing History HS
- Murray Hill Academy
- Urban Assembly - Makers Academy
- HS for Health Professions & Human Services
- Food & Finance HS
- Next Generation Technology HS (NEW!)

Upper Manhattan

- Frank McCourt High School
- Manhattan Center for Science & Mathematics
- Mott Hall High School
- Central Park East High School
- Park East High School
- Young Women's Leadership School

Hidden Gems Brooklyn & SI

- Brooklyn College Academy
- Midwood High School
- High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology
- All City Leadership Secondary School
- Williamsburg HS for Architecture and Design
- Design Works
- Brooklyn School of the Arts
- Urban Assembly Institute of Math & Science for Young Women
- Gaynor McCown Expeditionary Learning School
- CSI High School for International Studies
- Susan E. Wagner High School
- Curtis High School

Hidden Gems - Queens

- Forest Hills High School
- Thomas Edison
- Benjamin Cardozo
- Bayside High School
- Northwell School of Health Sciences
- Aviation High School
- Energy Tech High School
- Energy Tech High School
- Motion Picture Technical HS
- Academy for Careers in Television & Film
- Gotham Tech HS
- Young Women's Leadership School, Queens
- HBCU Early College Prep

Hidden Gems – Bronx

- Mott Hall Bronx HS (D9) and Mott Hall V (DI2)
- Bard High School & Early College - Bronx
- Fordham High School for the Arts
- Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music
- Dewitt Clinton
- Marble Hill HS of International Studies
- Young Women's Leadership School of the Bronx
- The Urban Assembly School for Applied Math & Science
- Bronx HS of Hip Hop (NEW!)

Some New HS are opening in the Fall!

- In the South Bronx (D9): the **Bronx High School of Hip Hop**. 115-125 seats per grade will be available.

Supt Carl Manalo, Founding principal Jason Reyes
(Instagram @revolutionary_reyes)

<https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2025/12/18/officials-say-the-bronx-school-of-hip-hop-is-first-of-its-kind/>

- In Manhattan: the NextGen HS (*subject to PEP approval in April*). Target size of 100 / class, academically screened High School. Open houses March 19, 26, 31. Hackathon at Google March 29.

Supt Gary Beidelman, Founding Principal Caleb Combs

<https://www.nextgentechhs.org/> SIGN UP INTEREST FORM!

“Off cycle admissions”: Information sessions are ongoing. These schools were not available on Myschools for the main round in the fall. New schools application opens March 19!



NGT
Next Generation Technology High School

Interested in a high school focused on AI, computer science, technology, and math? Next Generation Technology High School is opening Fall 2026, and the New Schools application will open on March 19th at myschools.nyc. This is a great option if you don't end up getting your first-choice offer on March 5 or you're still looking for the right fit.

New Schools Application
MARCH 19 - APRIL 17TH
Login to myschools.nyc to apply for brand new high schools!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
NEXTGENTECHHS.ORG

www.Nextgentechhs.org

The advertisement features a blue robot character reading a book, set against a dark background with glowing geometric shapes.



New Information Session Dates

MARCH 19, 26, & 31
5-6PM

VISIT [NEXTGENTECHHS.ORG](https://www.Nextgentechhs.org) FOR INFO

The graphic is dark blue with white text and features a laptop icon and decorative circular patterns.

What should families of 7th graders do?

NYCPS Applications *(timeline announced/MySchools opens in Sept.)*

- SHSAT – start looking at some free tests online (DOE material) and decide on the best study plan for you. Test date: *expected late October / early November*
- High School application deadline: *expected early December*
- Offers: *expected early March*
- Take advantage of spring tours if available – *the fall is busy*

Private / Parochial *(apps open in the Fall, decisions Jan/Feb)*

- Test dates: *TACHS (Fall); ISEE/SSAT (Rolling)*
- Offers: *January/February*
- Deposit: *If required, always before NYCPS offers are out*

Ask Us!

Q & A