

PRESS RELEASE

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APA Community Organizations' Response to Proposed Changes to the NYC SHSAT Process

As Asian Pacific American (APA) nonprofits in New York City, we come together to share our common values and beliefs on education in response to the proposed changes to the specialized high school admissions process.

As a community of APA nonprofits, we believe that:

1. Diverse and inclusive school environments are beneficial to all students. Research has shown that diverse and inclusive school environments provide educational benefits to all students. Positive student outcomes include stronger cognitive skills such as critical thinking and problem solving.
2. The NYC Department of Education (DOE) needs to address inequities in education across Pre-K through 12th grade and examine current processes and admission policies. We are still facing the outcomes of historic under-investments in education and systems that have historically disenfranchised communities of color, immigrants, and low income-working class New Yorkers.
3. No family or parent from any community should be shamed in discussions around education and schooling. We know that all parents and guardians want the best for their children, including their educational success.
4. Families need more easily accessible information to be better informed about the full variety of opportunities for their children's schooling at all levels. Navigating the NYC school system is especially difficult for APA families facing language and cultural barriers or lack of historical education access. The DOE must take charge to provide a navigable and transparent application, enrollment, and admission system.
5. ALL children have the potential to succeed and excel in schools when given the right support and environment because no student goes to school wanting to fail. The DOE needs to take responsibility in providing students with healthy learning environments that foster critical social, emotional, and academic growth.

6. ALL communities should be involved in constructive dialogue, especially when critical decisions are being made about schools, not just certain communities. We believe that real solutions can be developed if we work through the hard discussions, including those about gender, race, class, immigration history, and ability. These discussions should bring together stakeholders, families and students, policy makers and advocates, and educators from APA, Black, and Latinx communities who represent a full range of groups from geographic areas and income levels.

APA Organizations in Support:

A Place for Kids
Adhikaar
Apex for Youth
Arab-American Family Support Center
Asian American Federation
Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE)
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Brooklyn Chinese-American Association
CAAAY Organizing Asian Communities
Chinese-American Planning Council
Chhaya Community Development Corporation
Chinese Progressive Association
Chinese-American Family Alliance for Mental Health
CMP
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)
Coalition of Asian-America IPA
Council of Peoples Organization Inc
Damayan Migrant Workers Association
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving
Garden of Hope
Hamilton Madison House
India Home Inc.
Indo-Caribbean Alliance (ICA)
Indochina Sino-American Community Center
Japanese American Association of NY
Japanese American Social Services, Inc. (JASSI)
Korean American Family Service Center
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc.
Mekong NYC
MinKwon Center for Community Action
OCA-NY
Project New Yorker
Sakhi for South Asian Women
South Asian Council for Social Services
South Asian Youth Action (SAYA)
Turning Point for Women and Families
Womankind

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