

## 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 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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