



# COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
1664 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NY 10035  
TEL: 212-831-8929  
FAX: 212-369-3571  
www.cb11m.org

Nilsa Orama  
Chair

Angel D. Mescaín  
District Manager

## RESOLUTION

Date: February 18, 2020  
Committee: Youth & Education  
Board Vote: 27 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining

### **RE: School Diversity Advisory Group Recommendations**

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Whereas New York City is one of the most diverse places in America, yet our schools are more segregated than they were in the 1960's<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas New York City's history of residential segregation and disinvestment has created our segregated city, but Department of Education (DOE) admission policy has reinforced it;

Whereas decades of institutional neglect and racism have created deep concentrations of students experiencing privilege and those who have been made vulnerable by the system;

Whereas screened middle and high school admissions, and policy for Gifted and Talented (G&T) programming adopted under Mayor Michael Bloomberg reinforced and replicated disparities in who has access to enriched educational opportunities in this city;

Whereas in 2017 Mayor Bill de Blasio and then-Chancellor Carmen Fariña released a report titled: "Diversity in New York City Public Schools" in 2016 after years of pressure from grassroots organizations of parents and community organizations to examine and address segregation in public schools;

Whereas the Diversity Report announced the creation of a School Diversity Advisory Group (SDAG) to "tackle citywide policies and practices such as admissions and program planning;"<sup>2</sup>

Whereas SDAG's preliminary report, [Making the Grade I](#), articulates goals for citywide integration, and lays out a holistic framework for policy using the student-designed [5 R's of Real Integration](#) (Race, Socioeconomic Status and Enrollment, Resources, Relationships, Restorative Justice, and Representation)<sup>3</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> [https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/05/11/nyregion/segregation-in-new-york-city-public-schools.html?\\_r=0](https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/05/11/nyregion/segregation-in-new-york-city-public-schools.html?_r=0)

<sup>2</sup> The Diversity Plan, pg. 4 <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/vision-and-mission/diversity-in-our-schools>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.integratenyc.org/realintegration>

Whereas the SDAG’s second report, Making the Grade II, offers many steps the DOE must take to undo the harm caused under prior Board of Education and Department of Education leadership, and meet the goals adopted by the city;

Whereas Black and Latinx student make up 65% of all kindergartners, but only 18% of students labeled as “gifted”<sup>4</sup>;

Whereas the New York City practice of using a single admissions test, administered at four years old to determine who is “gifted,” is developmentally inappropriate, and has been condemned by the National Association for Gifted Children<sup>5</sup>;

Whereas the American Educational Research Association, the American Psychological Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education released a joint statement on the uses of standardized testing in education, proclaiming that, “Decisions that affect individual students' life chances or educational opportunities should not be made on the basis of test scores alone;”<sup>6</sup>

Whereas metrics like test scores, behavior marks, attendance and tardiness often serve as proxies for parent income, and utilizing them to allocate access to educational opportunities reinforces patterns of racial bias embedded throughout the education system;

Whereas the city has already responded to the SDAG and longtime advocates with investments in Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Education (CRSE), Restorative Justice and Social Emotional Learning, Recruiting and Retaining diverse faculty, and ensuring resources are equitably distributed, all priorities put forth by the SDAG;

Whereas building equitable enrollment policies is a priority for creating integrated and inclusive schools; and

Whereas thirteen districts are currently working with NYSED on the Socioeconomic Integration Pilot (NYSIP)<sup>7</sup>, and five more have city funds to design inclusionary enrollment policies<sup>8</sup>; now, therefore be it

*Resolved* by Manhattan Community Board 11 that:

1. Mayor de Blasio and Chancellor Carranza to approve the SDAG recommendations, and eliminate the use of exclusionary admissions practices that create segregation by race, class, disability, home language, and academic ability across the system;
2. the DOE must immediately end the practice of testing four-year-olds for G&T, and institute a moratorium on adding new programs and/or classes to existing program;
3. the DOE should resource district 4 to pilot a school wide enrichment alternative for G&T;
4. the DOE should resource all districts to conduct community engagement to develop inclusionary admissions for K-8 programs.

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<sup>4</sup> NYC DOE Data from: Making the Grade II: pg 26, <https://www.schooldiversity.nyc/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nagc.org/sites/default/files/Position%20Statement/Assessment%20Position%20Statement.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.aera.net/About-AERA/AERA-Rules-Policies/Association-Policies/Position-Statement-on-High-Stakes-Testing>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/funding/2018-title-1-nysip-plc/home.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/292-19/mayor-de-blasio-schools-chancellor-carranza-adoption-school-diversity-advisory-group>



Nilsa Orama  
Chair  
Community Board 11

cc: Hon. Jose M. Serrano, New York State Senate (via email)  
Hon. Brian Benjamin, New York State Senate (via email)  
Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)  
Hon. Inez Dickens, New York State Assembly (via email)  
Hon. Bill Perkins, New York City Council (via email)  
Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council (via email)  
Hon. Keith Powers, New York City Council (via email)  
Hon. Ben Kallos, New York City Council (via email)  
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, U.S House of Representatives (via email)  
Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney US House of Representatives (via email)  
Hon. Jumaane Williams, New York City Public Advocate (via email)  
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, New York City Council (via email)  
Hon. Scott Stringer, New York City Comptroller (via email)  
Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul (via email)  
Hon. Michael Benedetto, Chair, Committee on Education, New York State Assembly (via email)  
Hon. Shelley B. Mayer, Chair, Committee on Education, New York State Senate (via email)  
David Giordano, Community Board 11  
Denilyn Arciaga, Community Board 11