

# Middle and High School Admissions for Students with Disabilities

October 4, 2023



**KAREN HERRERA AND KIM MADDEN**



**Advocates for Children of New York**

Protecting every child's right to learn





# What is Advocates for Children?

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AFC is an independent agency that protects the rights of all NYC students

## Our Services:

- Helpline: **1-866-427-6033** (Mon-Thurs, 10am – 4pm)
- Free legal services to low-income families
- Guides and resources: [www.advocatesforchildren.org](http://www.advocatesforchildren.org)
- Workshops and trainings
- Policy Advocacy and Impact Litigation



# Check For Updates On Our [Website](#)

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The screenshot shows the AFC website with a grey header. On the left is the AFC 50th anniversary logo. The main header text reads 'Advocates for Children of New York' and 'Protecting every child's right to learn since 1971'. A 'Contact Us' link and a search bar are on the right. A dark navigation bar contains links for Home, Get Help, Who We Are, Who We Serve, Litigation, Policy, News & Media, and Support Our Work. A sidebar on the left lists: Helpline, Guides & Resources, Trainings & Workshops, and Back to School 2021 Updates (highlighted with a yellow arrow). Below the sidebar are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. An orange box at the bottom left contains the text: 'Need Help? Call AFC's Education Helpline (866) 427-6033 Monday to Thursday 10 am to 4 pm'. The main content area features a 'Back to School 2021 Updates' section with a large image of colorful markers and the text 'Back to School 2021'. Below this is a 'Back to School 2021' section with a paragraph: 'Stay up-to-date on the most recent NYC schools updates by [subscribing](#) to AFC's weekly Blackboard Bulletin. Want to see what you've missed? Catch up on some of our most recent issues below:' followed by a list of dates: October 22, October 15, October 8, October 1, and September 24.



# AFC workshops are on YouTube

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YouTube

Search

Advocates for Children of New York

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HOME VIDEOS PLAYLISTS CHANNELS DISCUSSION ABOUT

Uploads ▶ PLAY ALL

- FREE WEBINAR**  
**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:**  
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ON YOUR OWN, AND OTHER  
OPTIONS FOR PARENTS  
1:14:14  
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1:06:21  
{WEBINAR} Special Education 101  
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**EXTENDED ELIGIBILITY:**  
Getting More Time in  
High School for  
21-Year-Olds  
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DWA KE FANMIY  
IMIGRAN GENYEN NAN  
LEKÖL PIBLIK NYC  
35:29  
Dwa Ke Fanmiy Imigran Genyen Nan Leköl Piblik NYC  
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<https://www.youtube.com/user/AFCNewYork>



# Today's Workshop

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- How to apply – what's new?
- Types of Program
- Learning about schools
- Questions & Answers





## School application facts

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Over 400 middle and 400 high schools in NYC

Students choose up to 12 schools or programs

Apply online using MySchools account

Schools may use different admission criteria or priorities



# Dates to remember

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Middle School

Starts Oct 11

Apply by Dec 8\*

Offers on Apr 3

High School

Starts Oct 3

Apply by Dec 1

Offers Mar 7

SHSAT

Sign up by Oct 27

Test in Nov/Dec

Offers by Mar

Charter Schools

Apply by April 1

[Sign up for admissions alerts with the DOE](#)



# Process

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Offers will be made in Spring (March/April)



Waitlisted at any school listed above match



Can join waitlist (but will be at the bottom)



Check waitlist in real time





Visit <https://www.myschools.nyc/>

*MySchools.nyc is dedicated to our friend and colleague, Dave Yang, who spearheaded the creation of this enrollment platform, and who was a force for change and progress at NYC DOE.*

NYC MYSCHOOLS

Upcoming Events

Help

English

Log In

# Welcome!

NYC families can use **MySchools** to apply to public schools from 3-K to high school. Get started by creating an account. Then explore your children's personalized school options and get guidance on the admissions process from start to finish.

Use MySchools to research schools, RSVP for events, and complete students' applications



# Things to think about...

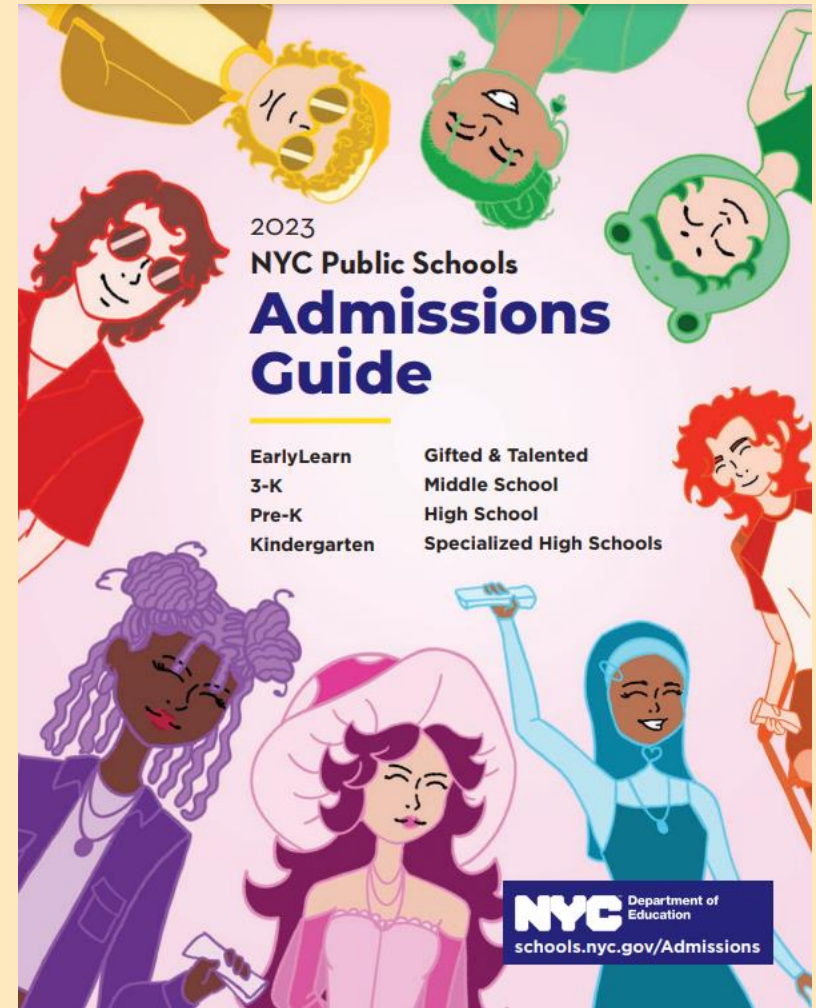
10

-Seats and Demand

-Priority groups/Screens

- No Appeal – but there is a waitlist by lottery number

- Check out Admissions Guide



# Click on “Profile” to see lottery number and grouping



(based on IEP): None

- ✓ You are eligible for this seat group: GE
- ✓ Meal status: FULL PRICE MEALS (NO FORM)
- ✓ Application Random Number: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
*To learn more about your random number click [here.](#)*
- ✓ Ed. Opt. Category: High
- ✓ Screened Admissions Group: Group 1

## What is a random number?

A random number is a long string of letters and numbers, for example: B51920AF-F1C6-40EC-8E9A-3E1E50CB13BB (this is a real random number!). Random numbers are used in admissions to determine the order in which students are matched to schools during admissions. These numbers are sorted in numeric and then alphabetical order like this: 0, 1, 2 ... 9, A, B, C, D, E, F.

For example, when the following two random numbers are sorted, the number that begins with "5" comes first:

1. 5B1920AF-F1C6-40EC-8E9A-3E1E50CB13BB
2. B51920AF-F1C6-40EC-8E9A-3E1E50CB13BB



Enroll Grade by Grade ←

Enrollment Help

Enroll in Charter Schools

Summer Rising

Other Ways to Graduate



## For up-to-date information:

- Go to the DOE's website, [schools.nyc.gov](https://schools.nyc.gov)
- Click on "Enrollment" and "Enroll Grade by Grade"
- Scroll down to select "Middle School" or "High School"





# MIDDLE SCHOOL

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# Middle Schools Admissions

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Zoned

Guaranteed spot or priority

Enter your address [here](#) to check

District

Only open to students in that district

Borough

Open to all students in that Borough

Citywide schools

Open to any NYC student



# Middle School Admissions

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**Screens**

Some schools screen for grades or have auditions, check in myschools

**Location**

Some prioritize students in their zone, district, or borough

**Diversity**

Some prioritize low-income students, Multilingual Learners, and students in temporary housing

**Lottery**

Lottery for each priority group if more applicants than seats





# Questions?

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# HIGH SCHOOL

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# HS Admissions Methods

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## Specialized

- SHSAT screened
- Offers based on score

## Screened/ Audition

- 4 tiers based on 7th grade core class average
- Some require essay, interview, audition, etc.

## Ed Opt

- Take a range of academic levels
- Some seats are filled through ranking, others random



# HS Admissions Methods

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## Screened Language

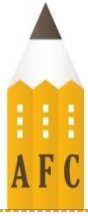
- For multilingual learners
- Consider time in US, language proficiency, etc.

## Transfer

- For older students
- Check program age and academic requirements

## Zoned & Open

- If you live in Zoned school area, just apply
- For Open, take anyone, random ranking



# Charter Schools

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Applications  
are due  
April 1<sup>st</sup>!



NYC Charter School Center:  
<https://nyccharterschools.org/>



# LEARNING ABOUT A SCHOOL

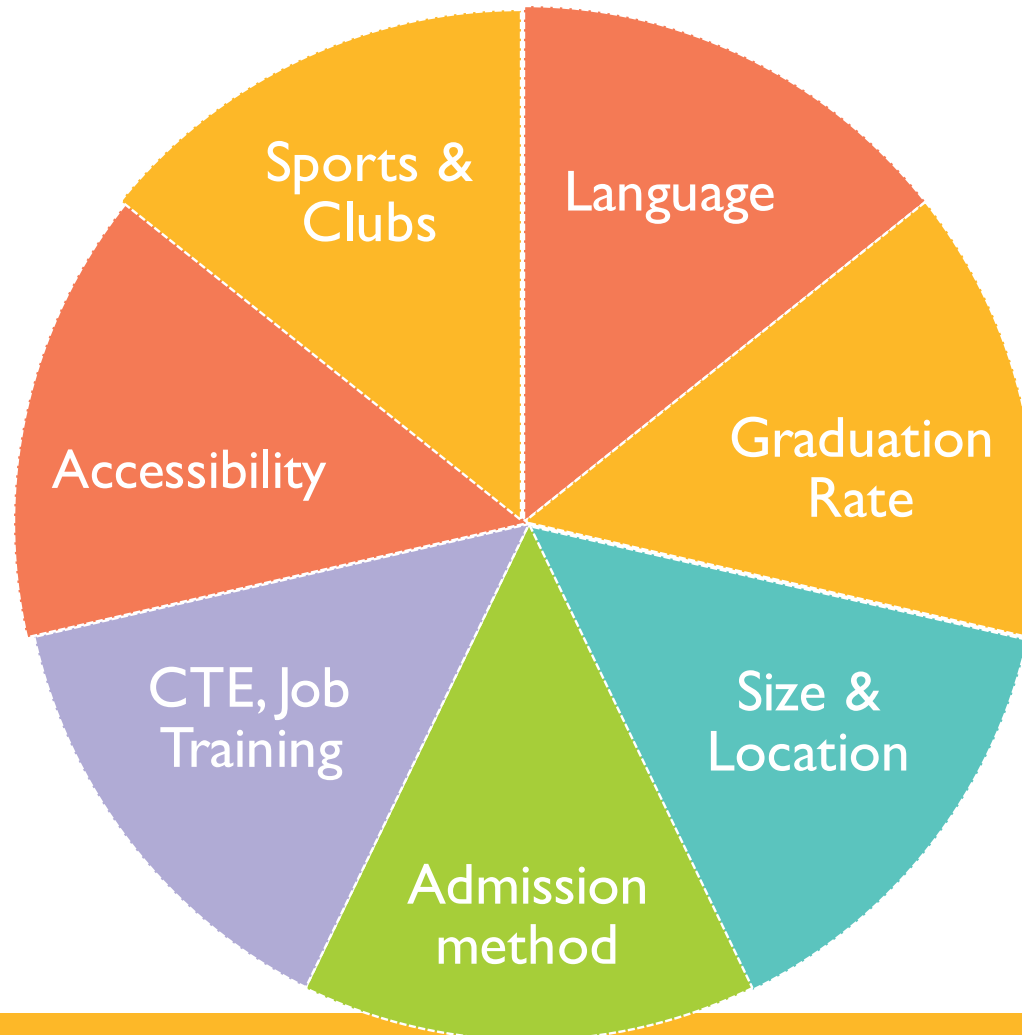
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# What are you looking for in a school?

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# Looking up school info on MySchools

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[← Back to List](#)

## Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change (05M670) ^

📍 6 to 12

📍 200-214 WEST 135TH STREET, MANHATTAN, NY, 10030

<a href="http://www.tmanyc.org">http://www.tmanyc.org</a>	<b>Subway</b> 2, 3 to 135th St
<a href="mailto:goisacone@schools.nyc.gov">goisacone@schools.nyc.gov</a>	<b>Bus</b> Bx15, Bx33, M1, M10, M100, M101, M102, M104, M11, M2, M3, M7
📞 212-283-8055	

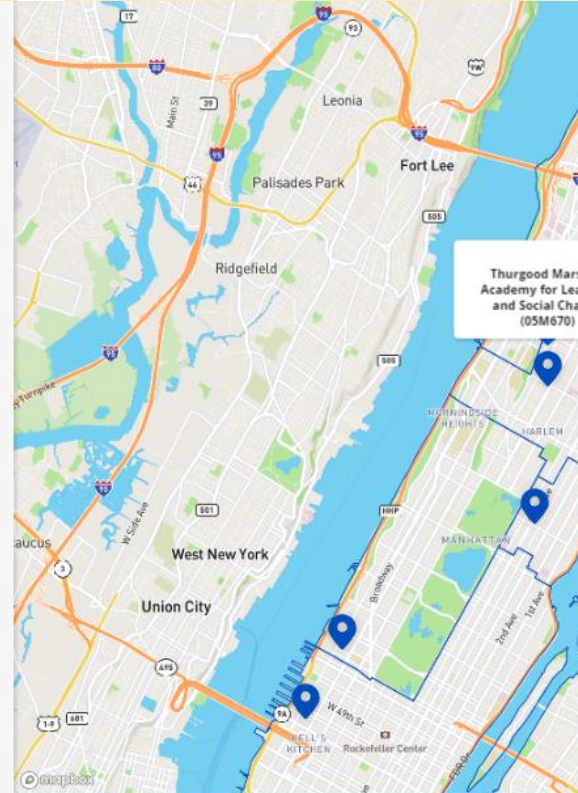
👤 6 to 12  
👥 560  
🕒 8:20am - 2:40pm

### Overview

Thurgood Marshall Academy is an academically rigorous environment where college and career readiness drive instruction and practices. Every student will embrace their global responsibility, have a vision for their future, a plan for realizing that vision, and the knowledge, skills, and experiences for setting it in motion.

- + Performance
- + Academics
- + Activities
- + Other Features
- + Accessibility

★ Social Change and Community Service







# My schools info on demand and priority:

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## Admissions

### Seats and Demand Last Year

#### General Education

**5 Applications Per Seat**

85 Seats

455 Applicants

All Seats Filled

#### Students With Disabilities

**6 Applications Per Seat**

23 Seats

133 Applicants

All Seats Filled

### Priority Groups

1. Priority to continuing 8th graders
2. Then to Manhattan students or residents
3. Then to New York City residents



# Screening Methods

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# Screened schools: Rank students

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Middle school  
based on 4<sup>th</sup>  
grade scores

High School  
based on 7<sup>th</sup>  
grade scores

Different ranking  
groups based on  
core class grades



# Audition

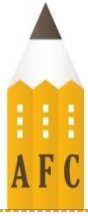
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Students prepare a vocal, musical instrument, drama, dance, or art portfolio piece



Apply on Myschools.org. Virtual and some in-person options



# Screened Language

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Students are matched based on English proficiency or a specific language spoken at home.



# Continuing students

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Guaranteed match regardless of available seats for K-8 or 6-12 schools



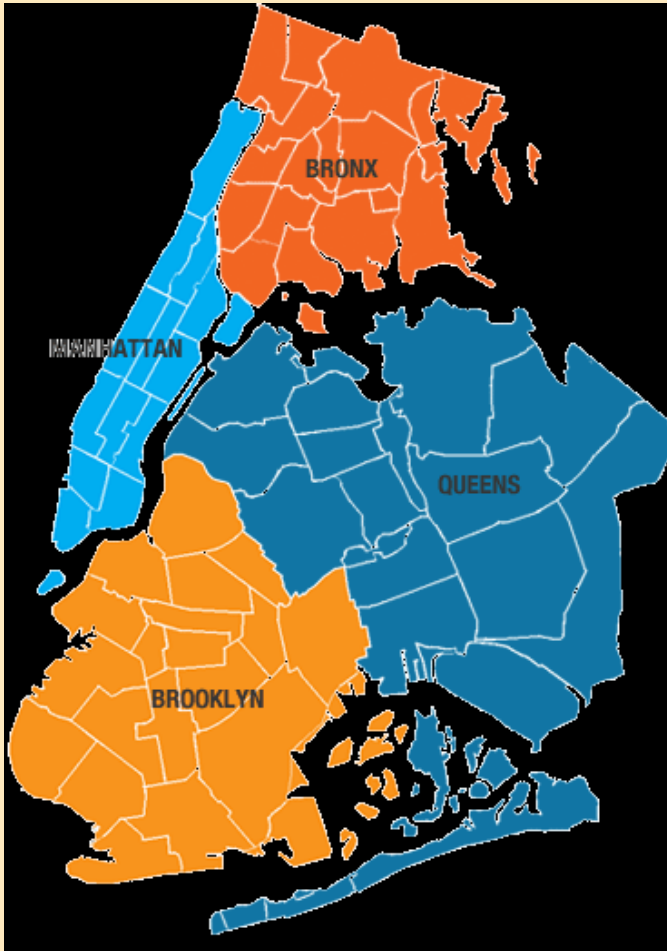
**5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>  
Graders**





# Zoned & Geographic

31



Students receive priority/guarantee based on where they live.

High School: No district preference



# Specialized Programs

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Bilingual ICT or Special Class



ASD Nest & Horizon (Autism)



ACES (Intellectual Disability)



Barrier Free/ Accessible Schools





# How do I find out if a school is accessible?

33



Accessibility

Partially Accessible

Look at  
accessibility  
on MySchools



	BAP Rating
STREET	6 out of 10
TON STREET	9 out of 10
STON STREET	9 out of 10
STON STREET	9 out of 10
VENUE	9 out of 10
VENUE	9 out of 10
STREET	8 out of 10
STREET	8 out of 10
STREET	8 out of 10
	9 out of 10
	9 out of 10

Look up BAP  
Score 0-10



Visit the  
School

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/buildings/building-accessibility>



# Diversity in Admissions: many programs

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Income (Free/Reduced Price Lunch)

Students learning English

Student in temporary housing

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



# Questions?

35





# Seats for Students with IEPs

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If more than 20% of classes (not lunch) are special ed (SETSS, ICT, Small class)

=

Students with disabilities (SWD) set aside



# Example of SWD seat for 35 classes/week

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Less than  
20%

More than  
20%

≠ SWD

5 × SETSS

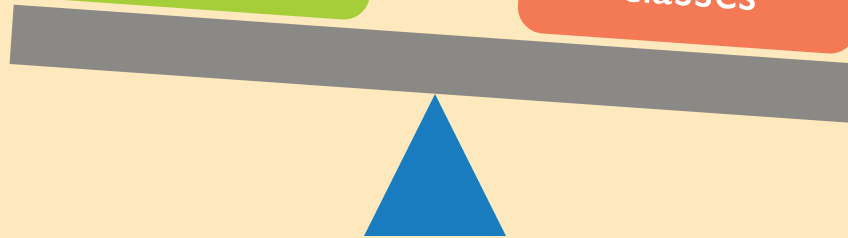
Speech

SETSS × 10

Small class for  
all classes

ICT for all  
classes

= SWD





# Special Education Admissions

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Students with IEPs apply the same way as other students

New school **MUST** implement the IEP.

Any change must be based on student's needs **NOT** school's program!

**BUT REALITY CAN BE COMPLICATED!**



# How do I know if a school has a small class or ICT?

- Look up school on DOE website
- Go to “School Quality” Reports
- Click on “School Quality Guide” 2<sup>nd</sup> in list NOT Snapshot
- Click on “+” next to SWD

	%	n	Compared to Borough Average	Compared to C
<input type="checkbox"/> Students with Disabilities	20.6%	97	+3.8%	
General Ed Settings with Special Ed Teacher Support Services (SETSS)	1.3%	6	+0.0%	+
Integrated Co-Teaching Settings (ICT)	14.4%	68	+3.4%	
Self-Contained Settings (SCT)		N < 5		



# NYC School Level Class Size Report

40

<https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/government-reports/class-size-reports> Click on “Detailed School Level Data” Excel file

Gen Ed	English	MS English Other	10	1	10.0	<15	<15
ICT	English	MS English Core	159	6	26.5	25.0	29.0
ICT	Math	MS Math Core	159	6	26.5	25.0	29.0
ICT	Science	MS Science Core	159	6	26.5	25.0	29.0
ICT	Social Studies	MS Social Studies Core	159	6	26.5	25.0	29.0
SC	English	MS English Core	34	3	11.3	10.0	12.0
SC	Math	MS Math Core	34	4	8.5	<6	12.0
SC	Science	MS Science Core	34	3	11.3	10.0	12.0
SC	Social Studies	MS Social Studies Core	34	4	8.5	<6	12.0





# Tips for Applying

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Only apply to programs you'd be happy to attend

Rank your TRUE preferences

Make your last pick a “safe school”

Look into schools with multiple programs



# Language Access Rights: Translation & Interpretation

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Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Urdu

## Translation:

- letters
- forms
- meeting notices
- report cards
- special education documents

## Interpretation:

- parent-teacher conferences
- parent association meetings
- suspension hearings
- meetings with school staff
- special education meetings

DOE language access complaints: (718) 935-2013 or [Hello@schools.nyc.gov](mailto>Hello@schools.nyc.gov)

# IEP Section on Compensatory Services: Still there!

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About loss of skills due to COVID remote/hybrid

Should be discussed at IEP meeting

Should provide services if needed

## COMPENSATORY SERVICES

**Compensatory Services** - Does the student require additional services to address lost skills and/or lack of expected progress due to the periods of remote and blended learning beginning in March 2020?  No  Yes

The student does not require compensatory services for the following reason(s):

- The student made expected progress toward IEP goals and did not experience a loss in skills during blended and remote learning.
- The student benefitted from Special Education Recovery Services received during the 2021-22 school year and additional services are not required.



# Tips if your child is suspended

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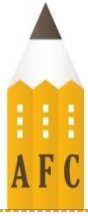
Notice must be in writing

No out of school suspensions!

Principal's suspensions: Ask for a conference

Superintendent's suspensions: Get the packet

Call AFC for help



# Please complete a survey!

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Middle School/High School  
Application Workshop October  
2023



<https://bit.ly/mshsoct2023>



# Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

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**Call us with questions!**

**Helpline: 866-427-6033 (toll free)  
Monday-Thursday, 10am-4pm**

**[info@advocatesforchildren.org](mailto:info@advocatesforchildren.org)**