

Middle and High School Admissions for Students with Disabilities

October 14, 2025



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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
- Workshops and trainings
- Policy Advocacy and Impact Litigation



Check For Updates on our website

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Protecting every child's right to learn

Advocates for Children of New York has a singular vision: an equitable and inclusive school system where all students receive the education they need to maximize their potential as adults.

I have a question about... ▾

GET HELP NOW →

www.advocatesforchildren.org



Today's Workshop

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- How to apply
- Types of Program: Middle, HS, Charter
- Learning about schools
- Questions & Answers





School application facts



400+ middle and 400+ high schools in NYC

Search and apply for schools using MySchools

Schools use different admission methods & priorities

Students are automatically waitlisted at higher-ranked schools



Dates to remember

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Middle
School

Starts
Oct 15

Apply by
Dec 12*

Offers
on Apr
15

High
School

Starts
Oct 7

Apply by
Dec 3

Offers
Mar 5

SHSAT

Sign up by
Oct 31

Test in
Nov

Offers by
Mar 5

Charter
Schools

Apply by
April 1

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



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

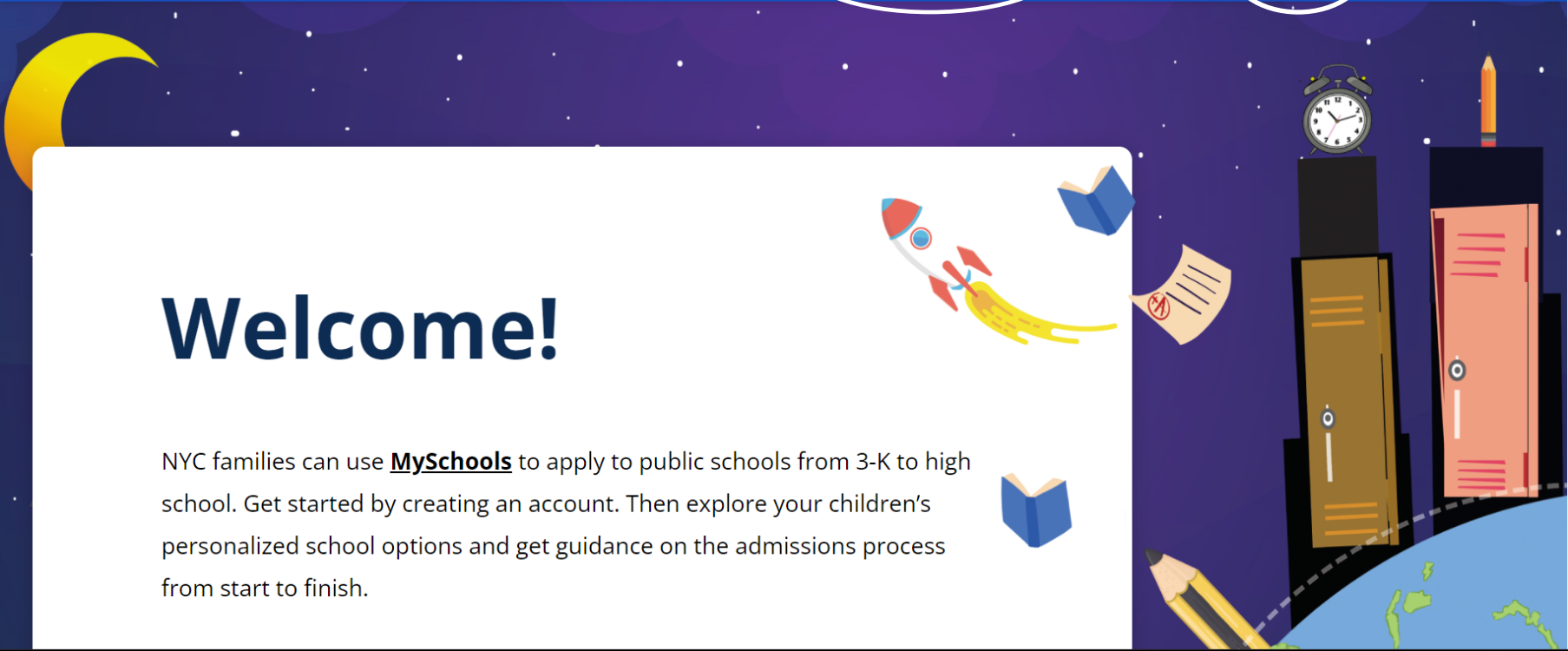
 Help

 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...

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- Seats and Demand

- Priority groups/Screens

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

- Chances of offer feature in the HS application

- Check out [Enrollment Help](#)



Click on “Profile” to see lottery number and grouping

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(based on IEP): None



You are eligible for this seat group: GE



Meal status: FULL PRICE MEALS (NO FORM)



Application Random Number:



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



Process



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



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

- 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



Chances of offer: High, Medium or Low

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Overview Search Apply BY 12/04

Millennium High School (M25A)

Comprehensive interdisciplinary liberal arts program with many opportunities for AP courses; Exhibition (a long-frame individual research paper and related presentation) in grade 12. This program gives a priority to Manhattan students or residents for up to 75% of the seats

[Remove from Application](#)

Admissions

My Chances

Your chances of an offer are a combination of the number of **applicants per seat** last year and your **priority group** for this

myschools.nyc



- High school students will see an icon indicating whether they have a high, medium, or low chance of receiving an offer
- Based on the applicant's admissions characteristics like grades, priority group, etc.
- The DOE has more detailed information about this on their [chance of an offer webpage](#)



Demand for the Program Last Year

20

How many
seats the
program
had

How many
students
applied to
the program

How many
applicants
there were
per seat



Charter Schools

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Applications
are due
April 1st!



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



LEARNING ABOUT A SCHOOL

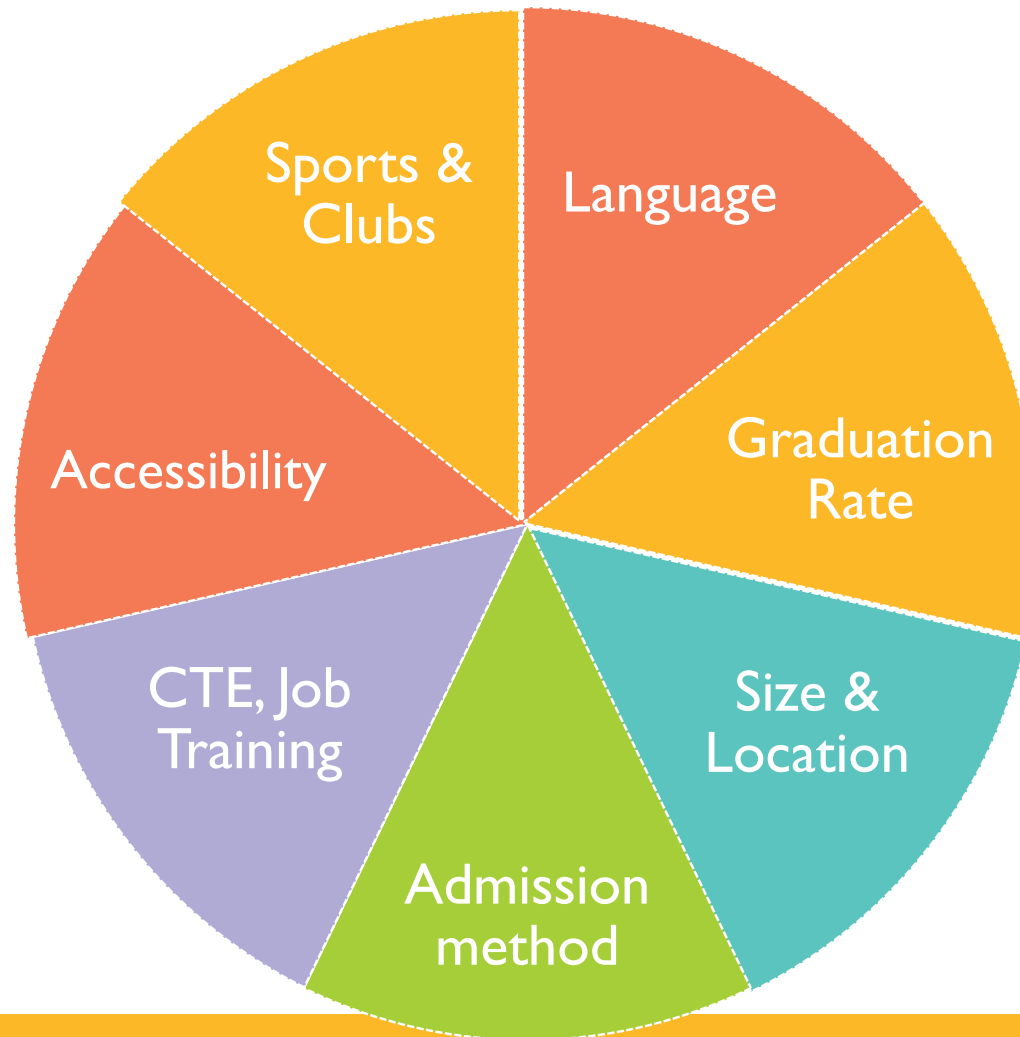
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What are you looking for in a school?

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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](#)

<http://www.tmanyc.org>
gnisacone@schools.nyc.gov
[212-283-8055](tel:212-283-8055)

Subway
2, 3 to 135th St

Bus
Bx15, Bx33, M1, M10, M100, M101, M102, M104, M11, M2, M3, M7

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

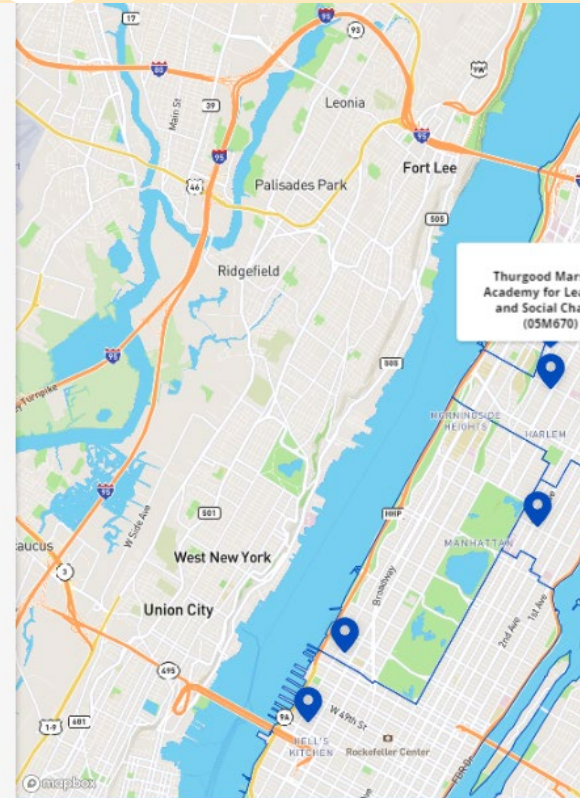
+ Activities

+ Other Features

+ Accessibility

☆

Social Change and Community Service





Myschools: Baruch College M87A

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☒ General Education

☐ Students With Disabilities

Seats and Demand Last Year

28 Applications Per Seat
93 Seats
2633 Applicants
All Seats Filled

Priority Groups

1. New York City residents

(There were about 1270 applicants eligible for free or reduced price lunch in this group and about 110 received offers last year. There were about 1360 additional applicants in this group and about 50 received offers last year.)



DIVERSITY IN ADMISSIONS

This school has a Diversity in Admissions Initiative.

- Applicants eligible for free or reduced price lunch will be considered first for 66% of seats.
- For the remaining 34% of seats, all students will be considered.

☐ General Education

☒ Students With Disabilities

Seats and Demand Last Year

5 Applications Per Seat
25 Seats
120 Applicants
All Seats Filled

Priority Groups

1. New York City residents

(There were about 60 applicants eligible for free or reduced price lunch in this group and about 20 received offers last year. There were about 60 additional applicants in this group and about 10 received offers last year.)



DIVERSITY IN ADMISSIONS

This school has a Diversity in Admissions Initiative.

- Applicants eligible for free or reduced price lunch will be considered first for 66% of seats.
- For the remaining 34% of seats, all students will be considered.



Screening Methods

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Screened schools: Rank students

27

Middle school
based on 4th
grade scores

High School
based on 7th
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](https://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



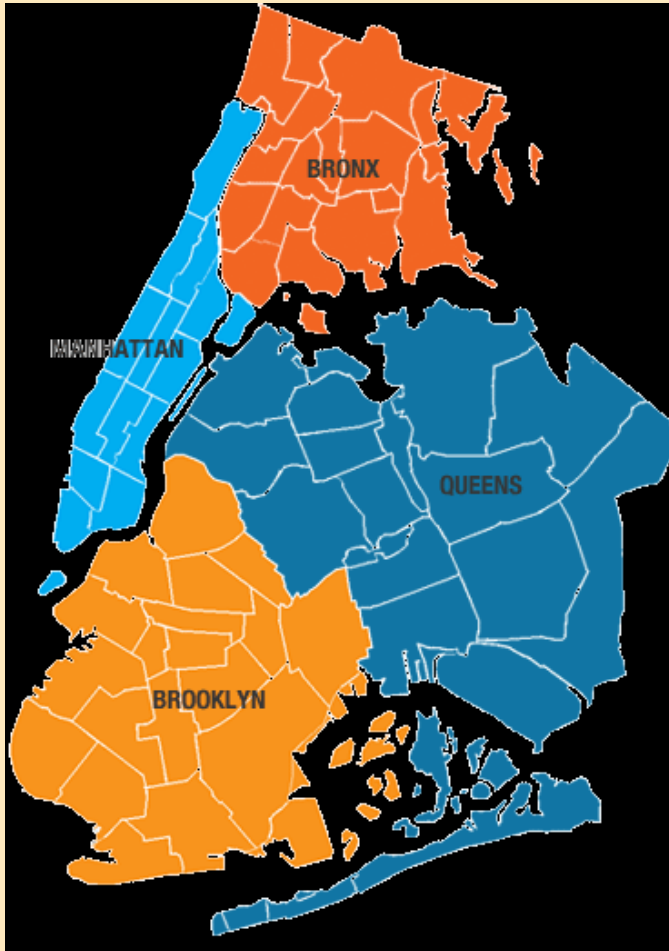
**5th & 8th
Graders**





Zoned & Geographic

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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?

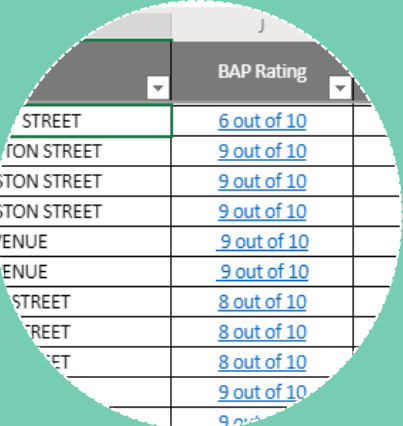
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Accessibility

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?

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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

37

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!



NYC School Level Class Size Report

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<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

NEW! Albanian, Uzbek and Ukrainian

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)



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



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn



Call us with questions!

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

info@advocatesforchildren.org