

Get ready for high school! All current 8th grade and first-time 9th grade students in New York City can apply to high school this winter. There are two pathways, and you can take both:

HIGH SCHOOL

SPECIALIZED HIGH SCHOOLS (SHS)

700+ programs at 400+ schools: Apply by listing 12 program choices on your application in your true order of preference, with your first choice at the top as #1.

8 Testing SHS: Register for and take the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) to apply to any/all of these schools. | **1 Audition SHS:** Register to audition, then audition to apply for 1-6 programs at Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts.

Anytime!

- ❑ Use the searchable high school directory at **MySchools.nyc** to explore school options.
- ❑ Check schools' websites: find resources for applicants and learn if they will be hosting any virtual events.
- ❑ Learn about admissions and get all the latest updates at **schools.nyc.gov/High** and **schools.nyc.gov/SHS**.
- ❑ You can get personalized support on- or offline, including by phone—see  below.

- ❑ Take SHSAT practice tests at **schools.nyc.gov/SHS**.

December 2020 – March 2021

- ❑ Set up your MySchools account to register and apply! On December 11, 2020, welcome letters were mailed to all current 8th grade DOE public school students; this letter includes your child's unique MySchools account creation code so you can access your account and add them to it. New to NYC public schools or need support? You can get a copy of your welcome letter from a current school counselor or a Family Welcome Center (**schools.nyc.gov/WelcomeCenters**).

- ❑ **The high school application opens the week of January 18.**

Log in to your MySchools account to build your application.

★ Apply to high school by February 23, 2021.

Submit your application online at **MySchools.nyc**, through your school counselor, or through a Family Welcome Center.

- ❑ Be sure to check if programs on your application have any additional requirements: see programs' MySchools pages for details.

- ❑ Registration for the SHSAT and LaGuardia auditions opened on December 21, 2020. Register online at **MySchools.nyc**, through your school counselor, or through a Family Welcome Center.

- ★ **Register for the SHSAT by January 15, 2021.** When you register, submit your SHS preferences. DOE public school students will test at their current schools. Other students will test at DOE locations.

- ❑ Take the SHSAT. Testing begins January 27.

- ★ **Register to audition for LaGuardia by February 23, 2021.**

- ❑ Prepare for any auditions. Find requirements for each discipline at **schools.nyc.gov/HSAuditions**.
- ❑ For all audition programs, including LaGuardia High School, submit your audition materials online by **March 2** through the Virtual Audition Submission Tool. The tool will be available in early January.

Spring 2021

- ❑ Get your high school offer and any waitlist information.
- ❑ Add your child to additional waitlists and check your place on any waitlist. If a program can make your child a waitlist offer, they will contact you directly.

- ❑ Get your SHS results, which may include up to one offer from a testing SHS (if you took the SHSAT) and up to six offers from LaGuardia programs (depending on how many/which programs you auditioned for). Note: The Specialized High Schools do NOT have waitlists.

MySchools.nyc

Throughout admissions, use this resource to learn about high schools. And when the application/registration periods open, log in to your account to save favorite programs, register for the SHSAT and/or LaGuardia auditions, and submit your high school application.

schools.nyc.gov/High schools.nyc.gov/SHS

Find the latest admissions information, deadlines, and updates. Watch videos to learn about high school and Specialized High Schools admissions, including how to use MySchools.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

Talk to your child's current school counselor throughout the process.

schools.nyc.gov/WelcomeCenters

You can also contact a Family Welcome Center or call us at **718-935-2009** to get personalized support. We can help you explore your high school options, access your MySchools account, and apply.

Know Your Chances | High School

Learn about these four factors to better know your chances of getting an offer to each program that interests you.

1. The number of program choices on your application and the order in which you place them matter!

- Apply to 12 programs, all of which you are truly interested in attending. Last year, 97% of students who listed 12 choices received an offer from their application.
- Place programs in your true order of preference! Schools will not know if they were your first or twelfth choice. You will be considered for your first-choice program first. If you don't get an offer to your first choice, then you will be considered for your second-choice program as if it were your first choice, and so on.

2. The number of available seats at different programs varies. Each program admits both general education students (GE) and students with disabilities (SWD); for admissions purposes only, seats are set aside for students in each designation. Your application will indicate GE or SWD; this is not something you choose. Students who receive special education instructional programming for more than 20% of their academic program, as indicated on their current IEP, are designated as SWD. All other students are designated as GE.

- The number of applicants to a program compared to its number of available seats helps show how in-demand, or popular, a program is. High-demand programs have many more applicants than available seats. More applicants per seat means a lower chance of getting an offer.
- If you apply to any high-demand programs (10 or more applicants per seat), we recommend that you also apply to some programs that have fewer applicants per seat.

3. Some programs consider specific priority groups of applicants for admissions before others, such as to students who currently attend middle school at the same school before other applicants. This means that if there are more applicants to a program than seats available, applicants are admitted in priority-group order: all applicants in priority group 1 are considered for offers before any applicants in priority group 2, and so on.

- **NEW THIS YEAR:** No high school program will give a priority to students or residents of a specific district. Next year, all remaining geographic priorities will be removed—this means that no high school applicant will have less access to any program based solely on where they live.
- Some schools use a Diversity in Admissions priority. This means that for a certain portion of seats at a program, they prioritize admission for specific groups of applicants, such as students from low-income families or who are English Language Learners.
- Apply to some programs where you are in the first priority group, or where the program lists just one priority to all New York City residents. If you have a zoned high school, or if you attend a K-12 or 6-12 school, apply to this program if you would like to attend it. However, you do not need to list it first unless it is your first choice; whether you list it first or twelfth, you will keep the same priority for admission.

4. Admissions methods are how programs make offers—what they use and what you have to do. Read more about the specific admissions methods mentioned below on our website. Apply to programs that use a mix of admissions methods.

- **Open or educational option:** Applicants get offers based on randomly assigned numbers, as in a lottery.
- **Screened:** Applicants are evaluated based on selection criteria, then ranked based on that evaluation.

FOR THIS YEAR: Screened programs can use any or all of the following information to evaluate and rank applicants: ELA and math state test scores from spring 2019; 2018-2019 final course grades for English, math, science, and social studies; and 2019-2020 marking period (through February 2020) course grades for English, math, science, and social studies. Some programs may use additional criteria—learn more on their MySchools.nyc pages.

- **Audition**

NEW THIS YEAR: These programs use auditions as the sole criteria to evaluate and rank applicants. This means that audition programs will not see or use applicants' academic records to make offers, except for LaGuardia High School, which uses a separate admissions process.

You can look up any program's applicants per seat, admissions priorities, and admissions method at **MySchools.nyc**. Click any program's name; then select "Admissions Factors" to display this information. Find more detailed information on admissions factors and building a balanced application at **schools.nyc.gov/High**—be sure to watch our High School Admissions Video Series, which also covers these topics.