



High School Enrollment- Here are announcement details about high school admissions. This document provides some high-level updates related to admissions. Please be assured we will communicate more details and guidance frequently in the coming weeks. We appreciate your patience and flexibility.

Communicating with Families:

All 8th grade families who have created their *MySchools* account or signed up for admissions alerts will receive an email with the updates to admissions.

Attached please find a letter explaining these updates. Please distribute this letter as needed to 8th grade families. **Update letter was posted in stream on December 18th below.**

High School Application:

The high school application for students entering high school in fall 2021 will open during the week of January 18, 2021. Families and school staff will be notified when the application opens. Families can use MySchools (myschools.nyc) to explore schools and submit their high school application with up to 12 program choices in preference order.

The deadline for families to submit their high school application is the week of February 22, 2021.

Geographic priorities and eligibility: Over the next two years, geographic priorities and eligibility in high school admissions will be phased out. Different types of geographic priorities will be phased out at different times:

Starting now, for fall 2021 admissions, admissions based on geographic districts and catchment areas will be eliminated. This means all high school programs that previously gave admissions priority or eligibility to applicants who live or attend school in the high school's geographic district or catchment area will no longer do so. In January 2021, updated information will be available in the online directory in MySchools.

Beginning with 2022 admissions (for students entering high school in fall 2022), all other geographic priorities and eligibilities will be removed. This means that every high school will be available to any student across our City.

Please see the following pages for more information on:

-Specialized High schools (page 2), Screened Programs (page 3), Audition Programs (page 4), Educational Option Programs and No Ranking (Page 5)

Specialized High Schools:

Registration for the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) and LaGuardia High School auditions will open on December 21, 2020.

As in previous years, families can register their child for the SHSAT and/or LaGuardia High School auditions in MySchools (myschools.nyc). The deadline for families to register for the SHSAT is January 15, 2021.

New! Starting this year, families will indicate their Specialized High School preference order at the time of registration in MySchools.

New! This year, public schools that serve 8th grade will administer the SHSAT for their current 8th grade students. Charter school students, home schooled students, non-public school students (private, parochial, independent, etc.), and 9th grade students will take the test at DOE test sites. SHSAT Test dates will begin on January 27 with 8th grade public school students testing at their middle school. More details and specific test dates will be shared with school staff and families in the coming weeks.

Screened programs:

High school programs that use the “screened” admissions method have the option to continue using this admissions method for the current school year, with the following changes:

Screened programs will have the option to use the following data to evaluate applicants for admission:

Final course grades from the 2018-2019 school year.

Marking period course grades from fall 2019 through February 2020.

Standardized test scores from spring 2019.

Screened programs cannot use any of the following data to evaluate applicants for admission:

Attendance and punctuality from any school year.

Course grades from spring 2020.

Standardized test scores from spring 2020.

Internal assessments: by this, we mean interviews, academic portfolios, school-administered exams, and online admissions activities. This does not include auditions, which are covered below in detail. Screened programs that used “internal assessments” in the past have the option to continue using their internal assessment for the current school year. Screened programs that did not use internal assessments in the past cannot begin using internal assessments this year.

Any high school with a program that uses the “screened” admissions method will have the option to change the admissions method to “Open” or “Educational Option (Ed. Opt.)” this year.

Starting in January 2021, each school page in the online directory in MySchools will show each program’s admissions method (updated, if necessary), updated geographic priorities (where applicable), and updated selection criteria (for screened programs).

Audition programs:

Virtual auditions: This year, all high school auditions will be held virtually through the Virtual Audition Submission Tool. All high school programs that use the “audition” admissions method, including the programs at LaGuardia High School, will use the centralized Virtual Audition Submission Tool. Families will be able to use this tool to submit files for students’ auditions. Later today, we are announcing to families that all high school auditions will be held virtually, and that the Virtual Audition Submission Tool will open in January. We welcome school staff to share this information with families as well. We will share detailed instructions for families to use the Virtual Audition Submission Tool in the coming weeks.

Simplified audition components: To support the use of the Virtual Audition Submission Tool, high schools worked collaboratively to develop simplified and standardized audition components for the current school year. These audition components were developed specifically for this year’s virtual auditions and are available here. Starting tomorrow, high schools will begin sharing their own programs’ audition requirements with families on their school websites, at their virtual tours and open houses, and in response to families’ individual questions.

Simplified selection criteria: Due to the ongoing public health crisis and the challenges it has created for using test scores, course grades, and attendance data in admissions, high school programs that use the “audition” admissions method will use only the audition to evaluate and rank applicants for admission; audition programs will not use applicants’ academic or attendance data to evaluate and rank applicants this year. In accordance with **New York State Law 2590**—Section H, LaGuardia High School is the only audition school that will continue to use academic data about applicants to determine admission, in addition to the audition itself. More details about admissions to LaGuardia High School will be shared with families and schools in the coming weeks. Updated selection criteria for audition programs will be available on each high school page in the online MySchools directory starting in January.

Virtual Fairs for Audition High Schools: To support families through the virtual audition process described above, the Office of Student Enrollment and the Office of Arts and Special Programs will hold a series of centralized virtual fairs for families to learn about the audition high schools and the virtual audition process. Dates and other details are not yet available, but will be posted on our website in the coming weeks: schools.nyc.gov/High.

Educational Option (Ed. Opt.) programs:

Like in previous years, the Ed. Opt. admissions method is intended to create academic diversity among incoming students through admissions. Since students did not take state exams in spring 2020, the Ed. Opt. admissions method will operate differently this year.

How Ed. Opt. categories will be determined: In the past, students were assigned a reading category for admissions to Ed. Opt. programs based on their previous year ELA standardized test score. Since state tests were not administered in spring 2020, this year we will use a composite score of students' prior years' performance in the four core courses: English, math, science, social studies:

Average of each student's final course grades from the 2018-2019 school year.

Average of each student's marking period course grades from fall 2019 through February 2020.

Standardized test scores from spring 2019.

Based on this composite score, students will be assigned an Ed. Opt. category, and a proportional number of offers will be made to applicants from each category for each individual Ed. Opt. program:

- The top third of students citywide will be in the "High" category. One third of offers to each Ed. Opt. program will be made to applicants in the "High" category.
- The middle third of students citywide will be in the "Middle" category. One third of offers to each Ed. Opt. program will be made to applicants in the "Middle" category.
- The bottom third of students citywide will be in the "Low" category. One third of offers to each Ed. Opt. program will be made to applicants in the "Low" category.

No ranking:

In the past, some Ed. Opt. programs chose to rank applicants; this prioritized those ranked applicants for admission, but had no influence on whether or not the program met its match targets. This year, in an effort to streamline the process, Ed. Opt. programs cannot rank applicants. Instead, all applicants to Ed. Opt. programs will be considered equally and randomly among others in their category (high, middle, or low) for the number of offers available for applicants in each category.

We know you likely have many questions, and we are here to answer those. We will share more information with school staff and families in the coming days and weeks. We appreciate your patience and flexibility. As always, please contact us at HSEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov with questions.

Thank you,

The High School Admissions Team -Office of Student Enrollment

MS 216Q Counselors-Ms. O'Brien and Mr. Kovacs