

The Ultimate Guide To

Choosing a High School In NYC



Check out our website for more resources:

<https://highschoolsnyc.com>

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01

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ About this eBook
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Firstly, thank you for picking up this eBook. We hope it will help you navigate the NYC High School system.

Whether you're new to the admissions process or just seeking to refine your strategy, this guide is designed to simplify a sometimes daunting process.

By the end, you'll be ready to make informed decisions that suit your child's needs and aspirations.



About this eBook

This eBook focuses on guiding you through NYC's public high school system, with a spotlight on specialized and screened schools.

We have chosen to focus on specialized and screened schools as they offer top public education opportunities. Specialized schools require the SHSAT, while screened schools consider grades and essays. To help, we have included essays examples to boost your child's chances of accessing a great school without private school costs.

Private schools follow an entirely different process, and while they are a great

option if you have the resources, this guide focuses solely on public schools. We believe every family should have the tools to navigate the public system and access high-quality education for their children.

The New York City Department of Education **eliminated** the zoned high school option in 2021. This means that there are no longer geographic limitations on which high schools students can attend.

MySchools website

MySchools is the Department of Education's platform for all your school-related needs.

It offers quick access to enrollment details, schedules, grades, attendance, and communication between schools, students, and parents.

You can begin using MySchools from 3-K.

Whether you're a long-time user or applying for the first time, you can manage all your children's school information in one account, even if you have more than one child.

If you don't already have an account, you can start today!

<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

School Directory

Calendar

Enrollment Support

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

02

PREREQUISITES

- ▶ Age
- ▶ Residence
- ▶ Citizenship

Navigating the NYC high school system can be overwhelming, but starting with the right information is key.

Before diving into the application process for NYC high schools, it's important to first understand the basic eligibility requirements.

Let's get started.



Age

The process should begin when the child is in **7th grade** (12 to 13 years old).



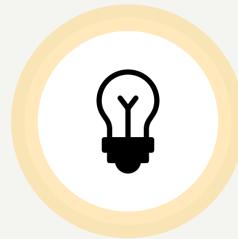
Residence

The child and their family must **live in NYC**, covering Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, Bronx, and Staten Island.



Citizenship

There is **no** US citizenship or Resident Alien status requirement for the child or their family.



PRO TIP

You can provide proof of residency with either an **apartment lease** or a **notarized letter** from your landlord confirming that you live at the stated address.

Both documents must clearly show your current residence within NYC.

03

THE NYC HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM

- ▶ Specialized schools
- ▶ Screened schools
- ▶ Audition schools
- ▶ Educational Option schools
- ▶ Open enrollment schools

NYC offers a wide variety of high schools,
each with its own admissions process.

In this chapter, we'll break down
the different types of schools so
you can understand your options
and make the best choice for your
child.

Let's dive in!



Rock & Roll

Live Music

Europe 1973



Understanding High School Types

Many websites classify high schools by their **educational programs and structures**, emphasizing categories like Career and Technical Education (CTE) Schools, Early College Schools, and Community Schools, which focus on curriculum and support services.

In this eBook, we will explore high school types based on their **admissions methods** only, helping you understand how students are selected for different programs.

Specialized Schools

These are the most selective schools, offering a rigorous academic environment.

How to get in?

Admission to specialized high schools is based on the **Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT)**,

which tests English and math skills.

The test is the main factor in determining entry, regardless of where you live or your grades.

LaGuardia High School Exception

The LaGuardia High School is an exception, where admission is based on an audition or portfolio review instead of the SHSAT. (Refer to Audition Schools for more details).

Specialized Schools

During your 8th grade, you'll get a **ticket** through mySchools.com.

This ticket will tell you the **date**, **time**, and **place** where you can take the SHSAT.

It's up to you whether you want to take it or not.

What's on the test?

The SHSAT has two parts:
English and **Mathematics**.

1 ENGLISH

PART A: Revising/Editing

There are between 9 and 19 multiple-choice questions. It tests your ability to correct errors in writing based on language standards.

PART B: Reading

This part has between 38 and 48 questions. It tests your understanding of different types of texts like informational and literary ones.

2 MATHEMATICS

The Math section has word problems and computational questions in grid-in or multiple-choice formats.

It includes five grid-in questions and 52 multiple-choice questions.

These questions test your understanding of math skills based on New York State Learning Standards.

Understanding the SHSAT cutoff scores

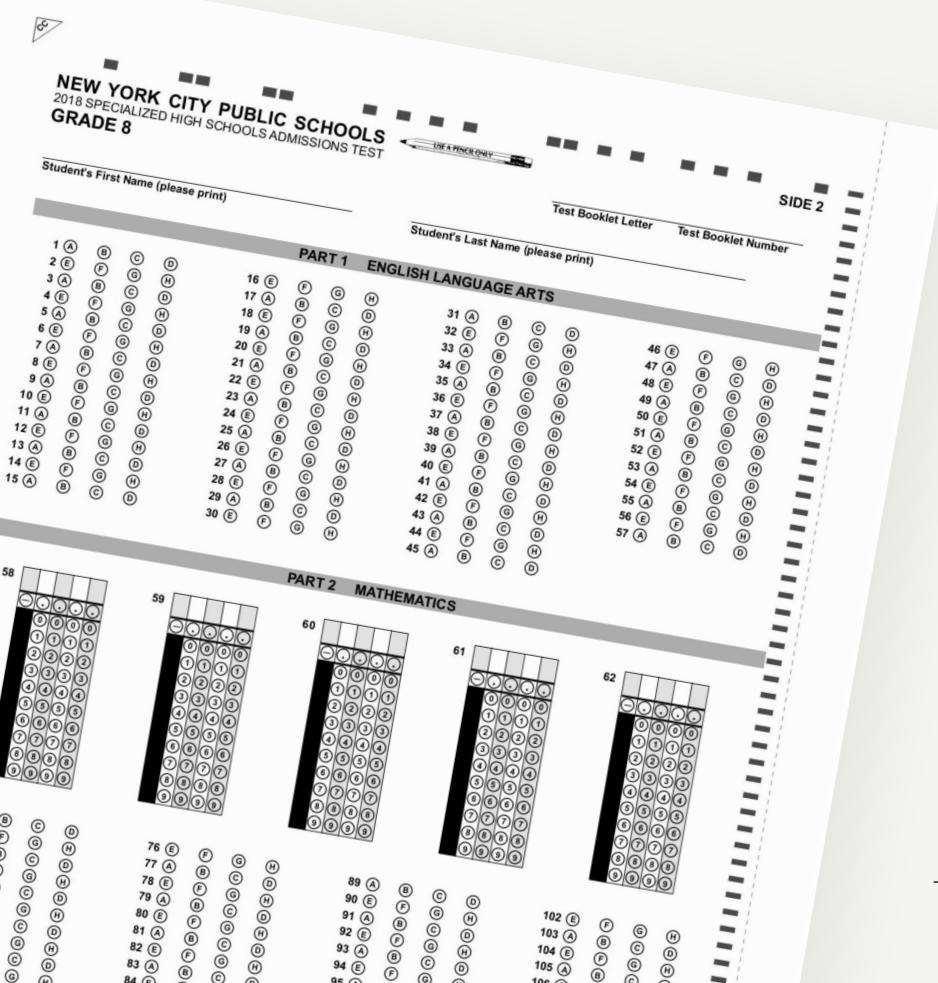
The SHSAT cutoff scores are the **minimum scores** needed for admission to each specialized high school, acting as a helpful guide for students to know how much they need to aim for.

These cutoffs change yearly based on student performance, so understanding past scores can help with planning and setting goals.

Specialized Schools

Which **schools** require the SHSAT
and what are their **cutoff scores**?

Let's find out next!





List of Specialized Schools

with cutoff scores

BRONX

Bronx Highschool of Science

YEAR	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
CUTOFF SCORE	561	561	563	569	566

Highschool for American Studies and Lehman College

YEAR	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
CUTOFF SCORE	514	510	516	502	517

BROOKLYN

Brooklyn Latin School

YEAR	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
CUTOFF SCORE	492	493	497	481	494

Brooklyn Technical High School

YEAR	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
CUTOFF SCORE	507	503	506	493	507

Specialized Schools

MANHATTAN

High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College

YEAR	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
CUTOFF SCORE	542	518	532	515	522

Stuyvesant High School

YEAR	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
CUTOFF SCORE	561	561	563	559	566

LaGuardia High School

This high school **does not** use the SHSAT for admissions.

QUEENS

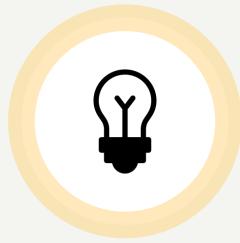
Queens High School for Sciences at York College

YEAR	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
CUTOFF SCORE	524	527	523	515	522

STATEN ISLAND

Staten Island Technical High School

YEAR	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
CUTOFF SCORE	519	521	527	525	529



PRO TIP

Understanding the **minimum** required score for your desired school is essential.

However, aiming **slightly higher** can provide a competitive advantage.

Preparing well is key to boosting your SHSAT score. Create a study plan, practice timed tests, and consider using tutors or online resources for extra help.

Screened Schools

Screened schools are selective, but instead of a test, they evaluate students based on academic performance, attendance, and sometimes other factors like essays or interviews.

How to get in?

There are **two types** of Screened Schools that use different admission criteria:

- Screened Schools WITHOUT assessment
- Screened Schools WITH assessment

Let's see how they work.

Screened Schools Without assessment

Criteria for admission

GRADES

Students are grouped based on their core class grades from 7th grade.

RANDOM NUMBER

Applicants get a random number to break ties between ranked students.

Screened Schools With assessment

Criteria for admission

GRADES

Students are grouped based on their core class grades from seventh grade.

ASSESSMENTS

These include essays, interviews, and activities that measure student skills.

Screened Schools

Now, let's take a closer look
at the three main criteria:

grades, random number, and assessments.

GRADES

The grades students have in **7th grade** are the ones that count.

Screened school admissions group students based on their 7th-grade core course grades, prioritizing higher

performers. See the groups and their **minimum average grades** below:

GROUP 1 TOP 15%	Students with a 7th grade average in the top 15% of their school or citywide.	MIN AVG GRADE 94
GROUP 2 TOP 30%	Students in the top 30% of their school or citywide, but not in Group 1.	MIN AVG GRADE 89.66
GROUP 3 TOP 50%	Students in the top 50% of their school or citywide, but not in Groups 1 or 2.	MIN AVG GRADE 82.75
GROUP 4 TOP 70%	Students in the top 70% of their school or citywide but not in Groups 1, 2, or 3.	MIN AVG GRADE 76.33
GROUP 5	Students not in Groups 1, 2, 3, or 4, including all other remaining students.	MIN AVG GRADE N/A

RANDOM NUMBER

Each applicant gets a random number during the admissions process, which works like a lottery. This number helps break ties when two candidates have the same priority level.

How does it work?

The DoE now assigns a random number to your MySchools profile as soon as you start the process (as early as 3k or Prek).

EXAMPLE OF A RANDOM NUMBER

B51920AF-F1C6-40EC-8E9A-3E1E50CB13BB

The **first two characters** of your lottery number matter most, with **00** being the best and **FF** the worst. A **B5** start puts you in the middle of the pack.

You get a **new lottery number** each time you apply for a new school or join a waitlist.

ASSESSMENT

Many screened high schools evaluate applicants using essays, interviews, and other activities.

Here are some key assessments:

Essay: A written response to a prompt, assessing writing skills and personal insights.

Online Admissions Activity: Interactive tasks done online to evaluate readiness and fit.

Humanities Writing: An essay focusing on literature, history, or social studies.

STEM Writing: An essay focusing on science, technology, engineering, or math.

Video Statement: A short video where the student answers specific prompts.

Interview: A conversation assessing interpersonal skills and suitability.

Portfolio: A collection of work showcasing skills, typically used for arts schools.

Screened Schools

Which schools are using **assessment**
as a criteria for admission?



Scan or Tap the QR code to access
the complete table online

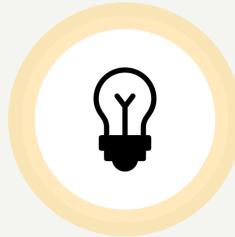
Consortium Schools

vs.

Other Screened School

Consortium Schools are a type of Screened School with few differences:

Aspect	Consortium Schools	Other Screened Schools
Assessment for Graduation	Project-based assessments, portfolio reviews	Standardized tests (e.g., Regents exams)
Learning Approach	Collaborative, hands-on, real-world projects	Traditional academics, often subject-specific tracks
Admissions Process	Single shared assessment across consortium schools	Varies by school: may include essays, grades, auditions
Ideal for Students Who	Prefer creative, continuous assessment over exams	Excel in structured, academic-focused environments



PRO TIP

Most schools handle their assessment process independently, with students submitting tasks through each school's website.

Some schools offer in-person assessments, with virtual options available if requested.

Others use the **MySchools** platform to collect assessments directly.

All Consortium Schools use the **same assessment**, so it only needs to be completed once, regardless of how many you apply to.

Audition Schools

They specialize in the performing and visual arts and are designed for students with artistic talents and passions, offering programs in dance, drama, music, film, and visual arts.

As the name suggest, admission to these schools is determined by an **audition** or **portfolio review**.

Balancing Arts and Academics

While Audition Schools focus on artistic training, students still take standard academic courses required by the NYC Department of Education.

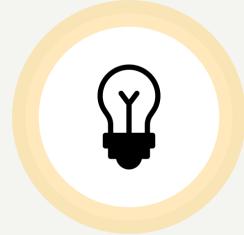
Attending an Audition School can be an exciting and challenging experience, offering students a chance to develop their artistic talents while preparing for college and future careers in the arts.

How good do you need to be?

Audition Schools vary in competitiveness. Some are highly selective and admit only the top applicants. Others accept a broader range of students with strong artistic potential. Generally, you don't need to be a professional, but you

must demonstrate talent, creativity, and dedication. Schools evaluate:

- Technical skill
- Creativity and originality
- Commitment and passion
- Growth potential



PRO TIP

Auditions typically take place between **November and January**. Deadlines and requirements **vary by school**, so it's crucial to check each school's website or the NYC Department of Education's high school admissions page.

For the most up-to-date audition requirements, visit:





Examples of Audition Schools

Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School *

The most prestigious Audition School, with programs in dance, music, theater, and visual arts.



Frank Sinatra School of the Arts

Strong programs in vocal/instrumental music, dance, drama, and film.



High School of Art and Design

Focuses on animation, graphic design, photography, and architecture.



Professional Performing Arts School PPAS

Prepares students for careers in acting, musical theater, and dance.



Audition Schools

Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music

A top choice for students pursuing instrumental and vocal music.



Edward R. Murrow High School

Programs in music, fine and visual arts, and theater, with strong academic offerings.



There are over 14 fully audition-based high schools and several other schools with audition-based programs in NYC.

Educational Option Schools

Designed to create a **diverse classroom environment** by admitting students with a mix of different academic abilities. These schools use a unique admissions method that ensures students from all performance levels have an opportunity to attend.

How Educational Option admissions work

By using the grades, admissions are distributed as follows:

- **Top 16%**: Students with the highest scores.
- **Middle 68%**: Students with average scores.
- **Bottom 16%**: Students with the lowest scores.

Ed Opt Schools

Students can apply to Ed-Opt programs through the NYC high school application process.

No additional testing or auditions are required, making these schools accessible to a broad range of applicants.

Open Enrollment Schools

Provide access to quality education without academic screening or selective admissions. These schools operate under a system where any student can apply, regardless of prior academic performance, making them an accessible option for a wide range of learners.

How to apply

Students apply through the **NYC High School Admissions process** and list Open Enrollment schools on their application.

Admission is determined **randomly through a lottery** unless the school gives priority based on geographic location or other non-academic factors.

No additional academic requirements, portfolios, or interviews are needed.

04

CREATING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL LIST

- ▶ How to create a Balanced list
- ▶ A Real Example
- ▶ How to prepare for Admission Assessments

Choosing the right mix of schools can make all the difference in finding the best fit for your high school experience.

In this chapter, we'll guide you on building a balanced list that includes dream, target, and safe schools, maximizing your chances of success.



How to create a Balanced List

Building your high school list is key to the NYC application process. We'll guide you step-by-step to make it simple and manageable.

Explore your options

1

Start by browsing **MySchools.nyc**, which lists all the schools available. You can also alternatively use Niche or great Schools or Insideschools.org has a helpful guided search tool that you can use as a starting point.

2

MySchools website

If you haven't already, create an account on **MySchools.nyc**. If you've used it before for earlier grades, just log in and get started. This website has all the details you need, from admission requirements to open house dates

3

Create your list

You can add up to **12 schools** to your child's list. It's important to:

- **Mix It Up:** Include a variety of schools, such as some that are more selective and others that are less competitive.
- **Think About Fit:** Consider what type of learning environment your child will thrive in—whether that's a large school with tons of extracurriculars or a smaller one with a specialized focus like the arts or STEM.

4

Rank the schools

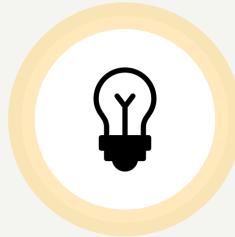
After you've picked your schools, **rank them** from your top choice to your last. The Department of Education will use this ranking to help match your child with a school. Your top choice should be the one your child is most excited about!

STEP 5, Submit and Wait

5

Once your list is ready and ranked, hit submit! You'll receive a confirmation, and then it's a waiting game until placement results are released in the spring.





PRO TIP

Attend Open Houses: Visiting schools (either in person or virtually) will help you get a better sense of where your child might feel most comfortable.

Check Deadlines: Make sure you submit your application before the deadline!

Stay Informed: Keep an eye on MySchools for any updates about the schools you're applying to.

A Real Example: Building a High School List

Let's meet **Sarah**, an 8th grader navigating the NYC high school admissions process.

Just like many students, she felt a bit overwhelmed at first, but by following some simple steps, she successfully got into her top high school choice.

Here's how she did it—and how you can too!



Exploring Sarah's options

Sarah is a good student overall and wants to get to the best possible school regardless of the school's focus on STEM or Literature & Arts.

She researched on MySchools.nyc and attended virtual open houses to learn about schools that fit her goals.

Here's what Sarah considered so far:

Brooklyn Technical High School

a **SPECIALIZED** high school that requires the SHSAT test.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School

a **SCREENED** school known for academic excellence.

Beacon High School

a **SCREENED** school, focused on humanities and social studies.

Other screened and open enrollment schools

other **SCREENED** and **OPEN ENROLLMENT** schools as safety options.

Eighth-grade students take the **SHSAT test in the fall** and receive their results in the spring, concurrently with other high school admissions decisions.

If you are applying to one of the 8 SHSAT-based Specialized High Schools, you **must list them separately** when registering for the SHSAT.

How to Decide Whether to List a Specialized High School?

Since SHSAT results are released with high school offers, you won't know your score in advance. If you're interested in a Specialized High School, rank them separately when registering for the SHSAT.

If your SHSAT score is high enough, you'll receive an offer from the highest-ranked Specialized High School where you qualify, along with other high school offers.

Creating Sarah's List in MySchools

- When Sarah registered for the SHSAT, she listed her preferred Specialized High Schools in order of preference. Since SHSAT results are released at the same time as general high school offers in the spring, she doesn't know her score beforehand.
- Specialized High Schools require their own, separate ranking list during SHSAT registration.
- To build a well-rounded application, Sarah should also include screened schools like Eleanor Roosevelt and Beacon, considering factors such as her grades and her assigned random number.
- For screened schools, admissions depend on **GRADES** and **RANDOM NUMBER**, which is assigned automatically when the high school application opens (usually in October or November).
- Sarah is a **very strong student** and ranks in **Group 1** based on her grades. But she does not possess the level of artistic excellence required for admission to Audition Schools.
- Her assigned random number is 72648062-839f-45ee-a81a-eaf60fcb289a.

- Since screened schools use a lottery system when many students have similar qualifications, you need a **more favorable random number**. Unfortunately, Sarah's number, starting with **72**, places her further down in the selection process.
- She should **remove Eleanor Roosevelt** from her list as this screened school uses grades (at last Group 1) in combination with the random number to pick a student.
- Sarah's grades are good but her random number it's way too down the list to ever be picked.

Sarah's decision is getting more clear at this point:

She must pick Screened schools that use
a **combination of GRADES and ASSESSMENTS** and focus on mastering
the required assessment.

Sarah's Final List

Here's the final list on the MySchool website:

- 1** Beacon High School
- 2** New Explorations into Science Technology and Math High School
- 3** The Clinton School
- 4** Institute for Collaborative Education
- 5** Manhattan - Hunter Science High School
- 6** NYC iSchool
- 7** Baruch College Campus High School
- 8** NYC Museum School
- 9** Columbia Secondary School
- 10** University Neighborhood Early College
- II** Park East High School
- I2** Central Park East High School

How to prepare for Admission Assessments

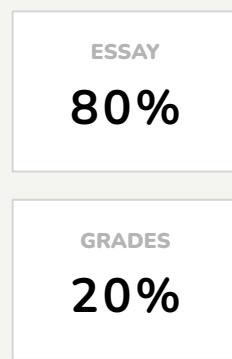
For Sarah's list, which focuses primarily on screened high schools, she will need to prepare for various assessments tailored to each school's specific admission criteria.

These assessments may include a mix of written responses, interviews, and subject-specific tasks, depending on each school's unique requirements.

Based on the list, here's a breakdown of what Sarah will need to focus on for each school:

Beacon High School

Requires an essay that counts for 80% of the admission criteria, alongside grades (20%).



New Explorations into Science, Technology, and Math

ONLINE ACTIVITY

50%

GRADES

50%

Uses an Online Admissions Activity, which makes up 50% of the assessment, in addition to grades.

The Clinton School

GRADES OR
ATTENDANCE

100%

Typically a screened school that might assess academic performance, grades, and attendance.

Institute for Collaborative Education

Requires a 100% essay.

ESSAY

100%

Manhattan - Hunter Science High School

Requires an interview or an online form as part of the admissions criteria, alongside grades (70%) .

INTERVIEW OR
ONLINE

30%

GRADES

70%

NYC iSchool

Uses a 100% Online Admissions Activity

ONLINE

100%

Rest of the schools in Sarah's list

May assess through grades primarily or add an online activity or interview if listed as part of the requirements.

For Sarah, focusing on **essay writing, online activities, interviews**, and maintaining **strong grades** will be key.

Essay is particularly fundamental as it's the main requirement for Beacon (Sarah's first choice) and many other top schools in her list.



PRO TIP

Each school's website or MySchools will provide specific details about assessments required, deadlines and submission formats.

It is important to review each school carefully as rules and requirements vary from year to year.

The Must-Have Checklist for a Winning High School Essay

- **Read & Understand the Prompt**
 - Make sure you know exactly what the school is asking.
- **Be Authentic**
 - Write in your voice. Let your personality shine!
- **Showcase Relevant Strengths**
 - Mention experiences that fit the school's focus (STEM, arts, etc.).
- **Tell a Story**
 - Use specific examples or a short personal story to stand out.
- **Show Growth**
 - Describe a challenge you overcame and what you learned.
- **Keep It Clear & Simple**
 - Avoid complex words and keep sentences short.
- **Grab Attention**
 - Start with a catchy opening, and end with a strong conclusion.
- **Edit & Proofread**
 - Check for grammar and clarity. Read it out loud!

Writing That Gets Noticed: Two Examples of High-Scoring Essays

We now present two exemplary essays written by a student applying to a screened high school.

Both essays earned maximum scores, offering a clear picture of what these schools look for in prospective students.

It's crucial to note that these essays were written

entirely by the student, without assistance from AI tools, parents, or any external help.

Admissions committees are highly skilled at detecting inauthentic work, and essays must reflect the applicant's genuine voice, ideas, and effort.

Let's now review these two essays and see what makes them truly effective.

QUESTION: How will a school with this approach to learning help you grow academically, personally, and creatively? What do you think you have to offer a school community like this?

Two years ago, I applied for the NYU STEP program, a Saturday academic enrichment program hosted at NYU's campus. Soon after, I was accepted.

I had always experienced a great amount of fear about presenting in front of large crowds of people. I knew that I would have to complete and present a research project as part of the program, but I was ready to face my fears. As soon as I started the program, I was assigned to a climate change research class.

I decided to conduct a research project about the vaquita, a nearly extinct animal. I was assigned to a group of four, and as we neared the end of the term—presentations were nearing. Seeing my chance to break out of my comfort zone, I decided to volunteer to go first.

The day of the presentation came quickly. As I walked up to the stage, I felt my heart race and my hands sweat. As soon as I started speaking, I realized that it was not as bad as I had expected. As the presentation came to an end, I realized that I was having fun while I presented. After it all, I had conquered my fear of public speaking.

Even more so, I discovered that I truly enjoy doing research projects and presenting my work to groups of people.

Knowing how much I enjoy conducting research and presenting it, the Consortium's performance assessment system is a perfect fit for my learning style. Conducting research and lab reports in the classroom will keep me motivated, focused, and comfortable enough to be creative and express myself effectively. Being able to select my task gives me the freedom to choose to study topics that I am truly passionate about. Even outside of my interests in science and math, completing PBATs in English and Art will help me find new areas of interest and continue to get out of my comfort zone.

As a Latina, I believe I can bring valuable diversity and enrich the school by sharing my experiences, traditions, and values, which will help all the students know better about the diversity around us. Being bilingual, I can help students who don't speak English feel more included. I can promote inclusivity by ensuring that every student, regardless of their background, feels a sense of belonging with the school community, through community activism and by starting clubs.

The chance to learn in a way that fits me perfectly at a Consortium school represents an opportunity to improve my critical thinking skills and will benefit my education.

QUESTION: What excites you about the possibility of joining the NEST+m community?

I see strong connections between my values, interests, and passions and the mission, vision, and extracurricular programs at NEST+m. These connections excite me and make me eager to become part of this community.

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After it all, I had conquered my fear of public speaking. Even more so, I discovered that I truly enjoy doing research projects and presenting my work to groups of people.

NEST+m offers me the possibility to be part of the environmental justice club. My passion for environmental conservation aligns with NEST+m's mission and vision. I am excited to work closely with the school's environmental efforts like organizing recycling events and supporting sustainability projects.

Another benefit of my going to NEST+ m is joining the Latinx club. As a young Latina woman, I believe I can bring valuable diversity and enrich the school by sharing my experiences, traditions, and values which will help other students learn more about the diversity around us. Being bilingual, I can help non-English speakers feel more included. I can promote inclusivity ensuring that every student, regardless of their background, feels a sense of belonging with the school community. My commitment to promoting cultural diversity corresponds with NEST+m's inclusive vision.

I see myself contributing to the NEST+m community through my participation in extracurricular activities as well. I would love to join the debate club, a choice that aligns with my aspirations to become an immigration lawyer. I think that improving my debate skills will help me speak up for people who need help, as my main objective is

to support those who don't have a voice and make a positive difference in the community.

I have a profound love for sports, particularly volleyball, which is another passion that aligns with NEST+m's offers. I am excited about developing my teamwork abilities, competing at a higher level, and proudly representing the schools on the girl's NEST +m volleyball team.

I enjoy learning science and math. NEST+m is the best place for me to pursue my passions. NEST+m not only has clubs that align perfectly with my needs, but they also include classes like astronomy, which I like to learn about, and environmental biology, one of my interests.

NEST+m includes many new opportunities for me, and going to this school will improve who I am and who I want to be. Joining the NEST+m community will make the school more diverse and provide me with an opportunity to challenge myself. Pushing myself to my best limit while also making a positive impact on the community is one of the many goals that I have. NEST+m aligns well with who I want to be and how to make the best version of myself.

05

CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ Final thoughts
- ▶ Useful resources

Final thoughts

Navigating the NYC high school admissions process can feel overwhelming, but with the right approach, you can create a strong, well-balanced application.

Throughout this guide, we've covered key steps—

from understanding the NYC high school system to building a strategic list and preparing for admissions. The most important takeaway is to stay informed, start early, and remain flexible.

Steps to keep in mind:

- ✓ **Refine Your List** – Make sure your high school choices reflect your academic strengths, interests, and future goals. A mix of specialized, screened, and open-enrollment schools ensures you have strong options.

- ✓ **Prepare for the SHSAT & Assessments** – If you're aiming for a Specialized or screened school, preparation is key. Give yourself enough time to study and practice.

- ✓ **Stay Organized** – Keep track of application deadlines, test dates, and any required materials like portfolios or auditions.
- ✓ **Make an Informed Decision** – Once you receive your offers, carefully compare them before accepting. Consider commute time, school culture, and academic programs.

Your high school journey starts with the choices you make now. Stay focused, stay determined, and trust the process.

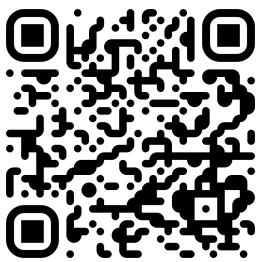
The right school is out there for you!

Good Luck!



Useful resources

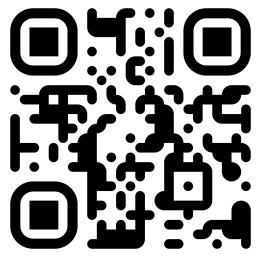
Here are some resources that might help you:



MYSCHOOLS

NYC High Schools Directory

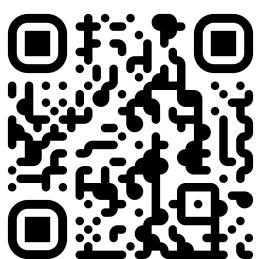
Find NYC public high schools near your Child's address.



WEBSITE

Niche.com

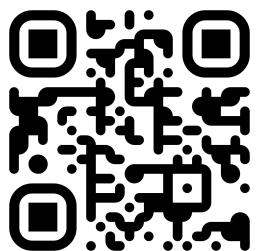
Platform that provides comprehensive profiles, rankings, and reviews of schools, colleges, neighborhoods, and workplaces across the United States.



WEBSITE

Greatschools.org

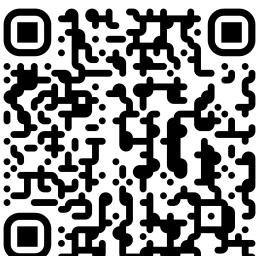
Nonprofit organization providing information to help parents find quality education and address educational inequities.



WEBSITE

Insideschools.org

New York City-based organization that provides independent reviews and information on NYC public schools to help families navigate the NYC Department of Education system.



BLOG

2023 SHSAT Cutoff Scores: Latest Score & Analysis

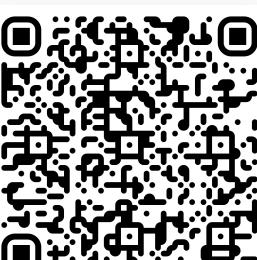
This article covers the 2023 SHSAT exam, its cutoff scores, and preparation tips.



MEDIUM

Decoding the NYC School Admission Lottery Numbers

This article explores how NYC school admission lottery numbers are determined and interpreted.



MEDIUM

Results from the 2024 NYC School Admission Lottery Surveys

This post reports the results of the crowdsourcing survey for the 2024 NYC HS Admission Lottery. .

Thank you for reading—may this guide help you
navigate the NYC high school system with confidence
and clarity.