

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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8503--A

## IN SENATE

May 9, 2018

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Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to admission to the specialized high schools in the city of New York

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 2590-h of the  
2 education law, as amended by chapter 345 of the laws of 2009, is amended  
3 to read as follows:

4 (b) all specialized [senior] high schools. The [special] specialized  
5 high schools shall include the [present] schools known as[:]

6 The Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn  
7 Technical High School, Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music [and  
8 the Arts in the borough of Manhattan] & Art and Performing Arts, and  
9 such [further] additional schools [which the city board may designate]  
10 as may be designated by the chancellor from time to time. The [special]  
11 specialized high schools shall be permitted to maintain a discovery  
12 program in accordance with the law in effect on the date preceding the  
13 effective date of this section; provided that the requirement that a  
14 student who is considered for the discovery program attend and pass a  
15 preparatory program administered by the specialized high school, demon-  
16 strating thereby his or her ability to successfully cope with the  
17 specialized high school program, shall refer to a program that can take  
18 place during the school year or the summer; admissions to the [special]  
19 specialized high schools shall be conducted in accordance with [the law  
20 in effect on the date preceding the effective date of this] section  
21 twenty-five hundred ninety-h-1 of this article;

22 § 2. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 2590-h of the education  
23 law, as amended by chapter 720 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read  
24 as follows:

25 (b) all specialized [senior] high schools. The [special] specialized  
26 high schools shall include the [present] schools known as[:]

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 The Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn  
2 Technical High School, Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music [and  
3 the Arts in the borough of Manhattan] & Art and Performing Arts, and  
4 such [further] additional schools [which the city board may designate]  
5 as may be designated by the chancellor from time to time. The [special]  
6 specialized high schools shall be permitted to maintain a discovery  
7 program in accordance with the law in effect on the date preceding the  
8 effective date of this section; provided that the requirement that a  
9 student who is considered for the discovery program attend and pass a  
10 preparatory program administered by the specialized high school, demon-  
11 strating thereby his or her ability to successfully cope with the  
12 specialized high school program, shall refer to a program that can take  
13 place during the school year or the summer; admissions to the [special]  
14 specialized high schools shall be conducted in accordance with [the law  
15 in effect on the date preceding the effective date of this] section  
16 twenty-five hundred ninety-h-1 of this article;

17 § 3. The education law is amended by adding a new section 2590-h-1 to  
18 read as follows:

19 § 2590-h-1. Admissions to the specialized high schools. 1. Admissions  
20 to the specialized high schools shall be conducted in accordance with  
21 this section, provided that students may also be admitted to the  
22 specialized high schools for the two thousand nineteen--two thousand  
23 twenty and the two thousand twenty--two thousand twenty-one school years  
24 pursuant to the discovery program as set forth in section twenty-five  
25 hundred ninety-h of this article.

26 2. For the admissions process conducted during the two thousand eigh-  
27 teen--two thousand nineteen school year to determine admissions to the  
28 specialized high schools for the two thousand nineteen--two thousand  
29 twenty school year, students who meet the criteria set forth in this  
30 subdivision shall be offered admission to the specialized high schools  
31 in the following order:

32 (a) students attending public schools located in the city of New York  
33 who are in the top three percent of their eighth grade class, as calcu-  
34 lated based on multiple measures of student achievement pursuant to  
35 subdivision five of this section, and who achieve a composite score  
36 above or at the cut-off composite score for the school such students  
37 have committed themselves to attend, pursuant to subdivision five of  
38 this section, provided that such students shall also rank in the top  
39 quarter of public school students in the eighth grade citywide based on  
40 such multiple measures of student achievement, and provided further that  
41 openings shall be reserved for such students at each specialized high  
42 school as set forth in subdivision seven of this section;

43 (b) students in the city of New York who take a competitive, objective  
44 and scholastic achievement examination in the eighth grade and achieve a  
45 score above or at the cut-off score for the openings that remain in the  
46 school for which such students have taken the examination; and

47 (c) students in the city of New York who take a competitive, objective  
48 and scholastic examination in the ninth grade and achieve a score above  
49 or at the cut-off score for the openings that remain in the school for  
50 which such students have taken the examination.

51 3. For the admissions process conducted during the two thousand nine-  
52 teen--two thousand twenty school year to determine admissions to the  
53 specialized high schools for the two thousand twenty--two thousand twen-  
54 ty-one school year, students who meet the criteria set forth in this  
55 subdivision shall be offered admission to the specialized high schools  
56 in the following order:

1 (a) students attending public schools located in the city of New York  
2 who are in the top five percent of their eighth grade class, as calcu-  
3 lated based on multiple measures of student achievement pursuant to  
4 subdivision five of this section, and who achieve a composite score  
5 above or at the cut-off composite score for the school such students  
6 have committed themselves to attend pursuant to subdivision five of this  
7 section, provided that such students shall also rank in the top quarter  
8 of public school students in the eighth grade citywide based on such  
9 multiple measures of student achievement, and provided further that  
10 openings shall be reserved for such students at each specialized high  
11 school as set forth in subdivision seven of this section;

12 (b) students in the city of New York who take a competitive, objective  
13 and scholastic achievement examination in the eighth grade and achieve a  
14 score above or at the cut-off score for the openings that remain in the  
15 school for which such students have taken the examination; and

16 (c) students in the city of New York who take a competitive, objective  
17 and scholastic examination in the ninth grade and achieve a score above  
18 or at the cut-off score for the openings that remain in the school for  
19 which such students have taken the examination.

20 4. For the admissions process conducted during the two thousand twen-  
21 ty-two thousand twenty-one school year and subsequent school years to  
22 determine admissions to the specialized high schools for the two thou-  
23 sand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two school year and subsequent  
24 school years, students who meet the criteria set forth in this subdivi-  
25 sion shall be offered admission to the specialized high schools in the  
26 following order:

27 (a) students attending public schools located in the city of New York  
28 who are in the top five to seven percent of their eighth grade class,  
29 such percentage to be determined to allow openings to remain for admis-  
30 sion pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subdivision and as calculated  
31 based on multiple measures of student achievement, determined as set  
32 forth in subdivision five of this section, and who achieve a composite  
33 score above or at the cut-off composite score for the school such  
34 students have committed themselves to attend, determined as set forth in  
35 subdivision five of this section, provided that such students shall also  
36 rank in the top quarter of public school students in the eighth grade  
37 citywide based on such multiple measures of student achievement, and  
38 provided further that openings shall be reserved for such students at  
39 each specialized high school as set forth in subdivision seven of this  
40 section; and

41 (b) students in the city of New York who have a minimum grade point  
42 average of 3.7, provided such students shall be admitted by a random  
43 selection process for the openings that remain in each school.

44 5. The chancellor shall determine the multiple measures of student  
45 achievement as referenced in this section, and the weight of each such  
46 measure, provided that such measures shall include academic course  
47 grades and standardized test scores. A description of such measures and  
48 the weight accorded to each shall be made publicly available, including  
49 on the website of the city school district. A student who is evaluated  
50 based on such measures for the purposes of this subdivision shall be  
51 assigned a composite score based on such weighted measures. Offers of  
52 admission to the specialized high schools pursuant to paragraph (a) of  
53 subdivisions two through four of this section shall be determined by  
54 arranging the composite scores of all students who are assigned such  
55 scores and who then commit themselves to attend a particular specialized  
56 high school in descending order from the highest score and counting down



1 to the cut-off composite score, which shall be the composite score of  
2 the last student who receives an offer of admission to such school based  
3 on the number of openings available in such school pursuant to such  
4 paragraph.

5 6. Offers of admission to the specialized high schools pursuant to  
6 paragraphs (b) and (c) of subdivisions two and three of this section  
7 shall be determined by arranging the scores of all the candidates who  
8 took the competitive, objective and scholastic examination and who then  
9 commit themselves to attend a particular specialized high school in  
10 descending order from the highest score and counting down to the cut-off  
11 score, which shall be the score of the last candidate who receives an  
12 offer of admission to such school based on the number of openings avail-  
13 able in such school.

14 7. The number of openings reserved at each specialized high school for  
15 students who meet the criteria set forth in paragraph (a) of subdivi-  
16 sions two through four of this section shall be determined by multiply-  
17 ing: (a) the total number of ninth grade available openings at such  
18 school; by (b) the number of students who meet the criteria set forth in  
19 paragraph (a) of subdivisions two through four of this section divided  
20 by the aggregate number of ninth grade available openings in all the  
21 specialized high schools.

22 8. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, admission to the  
23 Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts,  
24 and other schools of the arts that may be established pursuant to  
25 section twenty-five hundred ninety-h of this article, shall be deter-  
26 mined by a student's demonstrated abilities in music or the arts as well  
27 as such student's scholastic achievement.

28 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that  
29 the amendments to paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 2590-h of  
30 the education law made by section one of this act shall be subject to  
31 the expiration and reversion of such section pursuant to subdivision 12  
32 of section 17 of chapter 345 of the laws of 2009, as amended when upon  
33 such date the provisions of section two of this act shall take effect.

