



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 1541

By The Speaker (Council Member Johnson) and Council Members Treyger, Cornegy, Borelli, Powers and Lander

A Local Law in relation to creating a specialized high school taskforce

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Specialized high school taskforce. a. Definitions. For purposes of this local law, the following terms have the following meanings:

Chancellor. The term “chancellor” means the chancellor of the city school district of the city of New York.

Department. The term “department” means the New York city department of education.

Specialized high schools. The term “specialized high schools” has the same meaning as such term is defined in paragraph b of subdivision 1 of section 2590-h of the education law.

b. There shall be a taskforce to issue recommendations for improving the admission standards for the specialized high schools. The taskforce shall consist of at least 17 members as follows:

1. The mayor, or the mayor’s designee;
2. The speaker of the council, or the speaker’s designee;
3. The chancellor, or the chancellor’s designee;
4. Ten members appointed by the mayor, including one member who shall be a student, one member who shall be a parent of a child attending a public school within the city school district, four members who shall be departmental employees, one member who shall be an expert in the scientific field of study that examines education and learning processes and the human attributes, interactions, organizations, and

institutions that shape educational outcomes, one member who shall be a psychologist with an expertise in psychological test use, one member who shall be an expert in assessment, evaluation, testing and other aspects of educational measurement, and one member who shall be a teacher currently employed by the department; and

5. Four members appointed by the speaker of the council, including one member who shall be a parent of a child attending a public school within the city school district, one member who shall be an expert in the scientific field of study that examines education and learning processes and the human attributes, interactions, organizations, and institutions that shape educational outcomes, one member who shall be a psychologist with an expertise in psychological test use, and one member who shall be an expert in assessment, evaluation, testing and other aspects of educational measurement.

c. All members shall be appointed within 90 days after the effective date of this local law. No member shall be removed except for cause by the appointing authority. In the event of a vacancy during the term of an appointed member, a successor shall be selected in the same manner as the original appointment.

d. Membership on the taskforce shall not constitute holding of a public office, and members of the taskforce shall not be required to take or file oaths of office before serving on the taskforce. Each member of the taskforce shall serve without compensation.

e. The taskforce shall be required to meet no less than monthly. The taskforce shall also be required to hold at least one public hearing every quarter to solicit public comment and recommendations on the admissions process for the specialized high schools.

f. The taskforce shall examine alternative admissions criteria for the specialized high schools to increase diversity. Such alternative admissions criteria shall include but not be limited to eliminating the specialized high school admissions test, the department discovery program, the department dream program, state standardized examinations, grade point average and other measures.

g. The taskforce shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the mayor and the speaker

of the council no later than September 1, 2020. The report shall also be posted to the department's website. The taskforce shall dissolve upon submission of the report required by this local law.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately and is deemed repealed upon issuance of the report required by section one of this local law.

MMB
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