



2019-2020 Middle School Admissions Initiative

Background

NYC District 3 is one of the most segregated public school districts in the United States. District 3, which is made up of public schools on the Upper West Side and lower Harlem, is the most segregated in both New York City and New York State. D3 includes 32 elementary, secondary, and middle schools as well as 15 high schools. Finally, there are 9 charter schools operating in District 3, 8 of which are located between 110th and 122nd Streets.

District lines have largely remained unchanged since 1969. The below map highlights the make up of District 3 before 1969 and after, when Lower Harlem (110th-122nd Streets over to Fifth Avenue) was combined with the Upper West Side. Fifth grade students in District 3 are not assigned to middle schools. Since 1992, they apply to a middle school of their choice. However, this enrollment structure has not led to greater access and equity throughout District 3 but rather an unsustainable landscape of stratification among three variables: academic performance, economic status, and race.

Historic Diversity of District 3 Students

1973 - 19,122 students

White/Other - 12.7%

Black - 52.4%

Hispanic - 33.6%

Asian - 1.3%

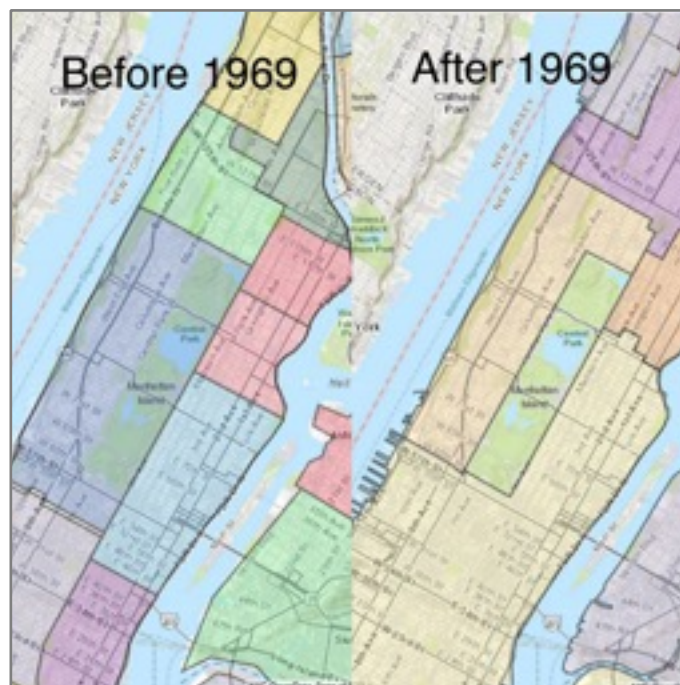
2017 - 22,667 students

White/Other - 37.9%

Black - 21.5%

Hispanic - 32.3%

Asian - 8.3%



District 3 Middle School Diversity Initiative

In June 2017, New York City Department of Education announced its Diversity in NYC Schools program. This plan mandates that revealed ranking for middle school admissions be replaced by blind ranking, which means that schools will not be able to see how they are ranked on a student's application.

Students will continue to rank up to 12 schools, and schools will continue to design and execute admissions rubrics (screens) as before. The purpose of this change is to increase access to middle schools for all 5th graders by eliminating the strategic admissions process mostly utilized by more affluent parents.

This change alone is not known to produce meaningful results however, because the increased number of applications forces schools to modify their admissions rubrics in such a way that could further stratify our middle schools.

Goals of Admissions Change

1. Offer a high quality, equitable education to all District 3 students for middle school via increased academic and socio-economic diversity
2. Strive to match the racial demographics of the district to each middle school
3. Increase the number of high performing middle schools

Summary of Changes

1. City-mandated change from revealed ranking to blind ranking for middle school admissions
2. District-mandated controls for academic and socio-economic diversity based on possible combinations of 4th grade New York State test scores, final 4th grade ELA and Math grades, a the student's qualification for free or reduced price lunch and/or a student's school's EIN (economic need index). Specifically, middle schools will be required to OFFER 10% of their seats to students in "group A," and 15% of their seats to students in "group B." The algorithmic variations are currently being studied by the DOE Enrollment office and have been submitted to District 3 stakeholders as simulations for discussion:
 - A. Composite including standardized test scores & the sending school's economic need index
 - B. Composite including standardized test scores & course grades
 - C. Composite including standardized test scores, course grades and Free and Reduced Lunch status
3. The above algorithm overlaps the already in place district mandate to offer 19% of their seats to special education students (meaning, that no student would be counted in both targeted set asides). Note: This change was implemented in the 2017 school year.
4. School-level rubrics will remain autonomously applied to all applicants. Note: the initiative for the 2019-2020 school year only includes District 3 middle schools which accept 6th graders.

Current Diversity Statistics for District 3 Schools (all grades)

2017 - 22,667 students

Racial

White/Other - 37.9%
 Black - 21.5%
 Hispanic - 32.3%
 Asian - 8.3%

Socio-Economic

Economic Need Index - 49%
 Poverty (Free/RP Lunch) - 49%

Academic (NY State Test Scores)

ELA (grades 3-8)

Level 1 - 15%
 Level 2 - 25%
 Level 3 - 29%
 Level 4 - 31%

Math (grades 3-8)

Level 1 - 23%
 Level 2 - 23%
 Level 3 - 21%
 Level 4 - 33%

School Name	Total Enrollment	% Asian	% Black	% Hispanic	% Multiple	% White	% IEP	% ELL	% Poverty	Economic Need Index	ELA - Level 1	ELA - Level 2	ELA - Level 3	ELA - Level 4	Math Level 1	Math Level 2	Math Level 3	Math Level 4
Booker T. Washington	852	11.0%	8.6%	14.7%	8.0%	57.7%	11.5%	1.1%	23.8%	21.6%	3.7%	6.8%	28.9%	60.6%	6.5%	6.0%	16.2%	71.2%
PS76	472	0.4%	75.2%	21.4%	0.2%	2.8%	23.5%	8.7%	96.2%	91.4%	40.5%	37.8%	16.8%	5.0%	61.7%	28.2%	7.9%	2.3%
PS149	235	2.1%	62.1%	28.5%	2.1%	5.1%	23.4%	15.3%	99.1%	92.8%	49.6%	37.6%	10.5%	2.3%	66.4%	28.5%	5.1%	0.0%
PS180	545	2.4%	51.6%	29.5%	5.7%	10.8%	16.1%	7.0%	71.6%	69.3%	24.5%	42.9%	23.2%	9.4%	40.4%	38.8%	13.8%	7.1%
PS191 Riverside School	516	5.6%	31.4%	45.9%	1.9%	15.1%	26.7%	9.1%	73.4%	71.1%	40.2%	34.2%	20.1%	5.4%	60.2%	26.1%	5.7%	8.0%
Computer School	400	8.0%	12.0%	27.5%	4.7%	47.7%	19.2%	2.0%	27.3%	31.0%	1.6%	18.8%	39.9%	39.7%	9.9%	30.1%	25.9%	34.0%
Dual Language MS	198	0.0%	1.0%	97.0%	0.0%	2.0%	25.8%	24.2%	89.4%	83.5%	19.8%	44.5%	28.0%	7.7%	23.9%	39.4%	27.7%	9.0%
West Side Collaborative	178	1.1%	29.8%	52.8%	6.7%	9.6%	28.7%	6.7%	71.3%	73.4%	20.5%	46.8%	26.9%	5.8%	39.9%	43.8%	12.4%	3.9%
Lafayette Academy	138	1.4%	50.0%	34.8%	3.6%	10.1%	23.9%	15.9%	84.1%	81.5%	25.8%	49.2%	18.5%	6.5%	36.6%	42.7%	16.8%	3.8%
Community Action	223	1.3%	42.6%	46.6%	0.4%	9.0%	24.7%	4.0%	75.3%	72.3%	9.4%	45.6%	37.2%	7.8%	17.4%	51.4%	19.4%	11.8%
West End Secondary	339	8.0%	5.9%	18.9%	4.4%	62.8%	22.4%	0.9%	18.9%	18.8%	0.9%	28.1%	35.3%	35.7%	7.8%	28.8%	42.9%	20.5%
MSC	753	6.0%	11.4%	17.9%	5.7%	59.0%	18.6%	2.3%	17.5%	28.8%	5.8%	23.7%	37.4%	33.1%	10.2%	26.2%	32.5%	31.1%
Wadleigh	278	0.7%	54.0%	39.2%	3.2%	2.9%	25.5%	3.2%	80.9%	84.1%	17.1%	68.6%	11.4%	2.9%	74.3%	25.7%	0.0%	0.0%
West Prep Academy	203	0.5%	60.6%	36.5%	0.5%	2.0%	34.5%	6.4%	85.7%	80.6%	13.3%	55.0%	26.7%	5.0%	50.0%	37.3%	10.1%	2.5%
Mott Hall II	342	4.4%	26.6%	43.3%	6.4%	19.3%	23.1%	2.0%	62.0%	57.9%	6.2%	24.6%	42.3%	26.9%	13.5%	35.3%	26.6%	24.6%

New York State Test Scores and Middle School Admissions

District 3 Middle School Admissions by ELA/Math Proficiency

Average Proficiency Level	# of D3 Applicants	% of D3 Applicants	# of Offers to D3 Schools	% of Applicants who Received a D3 Offer	% of Offers to First Choice	% of Offers to Top Three Choices
1	332	18%	199	60%	42%	55%
2	508	28%	361	71%	43%	64%
3	452	25%	364	81%	65%	77%
4	382	21%	338	88%	82%	88%
No Scores	141	8%	90	64%	45%	58%

Note: Includes all students who applied during the main round to any D3 middle school for 6th grade admissions. Excludes manual placements. Students are considered to be 'Level 1' if their average math and ELA proficiency rating from 4th grade is between 0 and 2.

Who Makes The Decision and What are the Next Steps?

As written above, blind admissions is a city-wide mandate that is being implemented for the 2019-2020 school year. Furthermore, the Department of Education has the authority to implement these admissions levels without official approval of community stakeholders, including CEC3. CEC3 communicated support for the goals of the initiative with three concerns and seven requests in a letter dated, May 14, 2018 (see www.cec3.org to download official letter).

As such, the next and immediate steps in this process include the following:

1. Discuss algorithm variations and arrive at final composite for 2019-2020 admissions cycle.
2. Take public comment via d3enrollment@gmail.com through May 29, 2018.
3. Meet with DOE regarding resource allocations for academic supports and other requests for the implementation phase of initiative.
4. Document changes and outline admissions process for distribution to current 4th grade parents. Note: June 5th is a scheduled gathering for 4th grade parents to learn about the application process.
5. Determine additional ways to message admissions changes to 4th grade parents.

Thank you for your participation in this challenging process. This document, along with the slide deck, CEC3 letter to the Chancellor, and other pertinent data relating to this exercise can be found at the middle school committee page at www.cec3.org.