



# DISTRICT 3 COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL

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Joseph A. Fiordaliso <b>President</b>	Theresa L.C. Hammonds <b>First Vice President</b>	Noah Gotbaum <b>Second Vice President</b>	J. Conrad Fagan <b>Secretary</b>	Barbara Denham <b>Treasurer</b>
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<b>Council Members:</b> Donna Veronica Gill	Olaiya Deen Michele Sweeting-DeCaro	John Fitzsimons, Ph.D. Michael Montero, <i>Student Member</i>	Zoe G. Foundotos	<b>Irene Altschul</b> <i>District 3 Community Superintendent</i>
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## CEC3 Resolution Vol. 14 No. 10 Resolution on District-Priority High Schools

**Approved at the December 17, 2014 CEC3 Calendar Meeting  
by a roll call vote of the Council Members present (6 in favor/ 2 opposed/ 2 abstained)**  
*(In favor: Deen, Denham, Fiordaliso, Fitzsimons, Foundotos, and Sweeting-DeCaro  
Opposed: Fagan and Gill / Abstained: Gotbaum and Hammonds)*

Whereas, D3 families have expressed concern that, while most high schools are city-wide schools, there are some high schools that give preference to students living within the district in which the schools are located (known as “district-priority high schools”);

Whereas, there exists a significant disparity in the distribution of district-priority seats in Manhattan high schools, which reduces the choices that D3 students have available to them;

Whereas, there are 23 schools with district preference in Manhattan, only 3 of which are designated District 3 priority high schools (one of the three is not located in D3 and its 2012 graduation rate of 65.2% was below the city average of 66%);

Whereas, District 3 is uniquely disadvantaged in that students in our district have the lowest access to district-priority schools in Manhattan. As shown in the table below, only 16% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders in D3 middle schools have access to a district-priority high school. This is disproportionately low, considering that at least 40% of students in D1, D2, D4 and D6 have access to district-priority high school seats;

District	Number of district priority HS's (solely to the district)	Number of district priority HS's (shared with a 2nd district)	Total HS's with some kind of district priority	8th graders in 2013	District priority seats	% of 8 <sup>th</sup> graders with access to a district priority seat
D1	2	3	5	817	364	45%
D2	7	3	10	2,226	923	41%
D3	1	2	3	1,257	197	16%
D4	2	0	2	1,099	515	47%
D5	1	2	3	1,043	237	23%
D6	5	1	6	2,002	819	41%

Whereas, there are no zoned schools in Manhattan and all the non-specialized high schools are considered city-wide, so students should have equal access to all of the borough's city-wide high schools; now, therefore be it

***Resolved,*** That CEC3 insists that the New York City Department of Education recognize this inequity and immediately take steps to re-evaluate the district -priority policy in Manhattan and throughout New York City and implement necessary reforms in order to bring fairness to the high school admissions process for all District 3 and Manhattan students. Possible reforms for creating equity could include, but are not limited to, eliminating district priority in all districts, forming new district priority high schools for every district in proportion to the size of each district's student body, setting aside a percentage of seats at every non-specialized high school for district priority students; and be it further

***Resolved,*** That CEC3 strongly urges the New York City Department of Education to develop and implement policies designed to raise the quality of non-specialized high schools within District 3 so that District 3 students have more high quality choices available to them.