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6/5/18

SUPPORT

**A.10427-A Barron
On 6/6/18 Assembly Education Committee Agenda**

The Conference of Big 5 School Districts, on behalf of the New York City Department of Education, strongly supports A.10427-A (Barron), which would establish a new admissions procedure for specialized high schools in New York City.

The New York City Department of Education currently relies on the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) in order to select students for enrollment at specialized high schools in New York City, with the exception of Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts.

This bill sets forth a new admissions procedure that would be phased-in over three years. Under the new system, seats at these schools would be reserved for middle school pupils with the highest averages based upon multiple measures with remaining spaces filled through a random selection process from a pool of pupils with a minimum grade point average.

The current admissions policy is overly restrictive with its sole reliance on the SHSAT. Middle school students in New York City should be afforded the opportunity to attend specialized high schools if they demonstrate excellence in their studies. This bill would expand the pool of eligible applicants and foster greater student diversity thereby resulting in enrollments that are far more reflective of District demographics.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, the Conference of Big 5 School Districts, on behalf of the New York City Department of Education, urges your approval of A.10427-A (Barron).