

# Community Education Council District 20

Adele Doyle, President  
Dina Guirguis, First Vice President  
Robert Aguilar, Second Vice President  
Open Seat, Recording Secretary  
Inga Smolyar, Treasurer  
Jessica Li, Student Member

Alan Aja  
Mauricia Cadillo  
Yi Fang Chen  
Vito LaBella  
Alice Licato  
Simeon Stolzberg

## **D20 Resolution #4**

### **In Support of Allowing A District Specific Admissions Policy & Retention of Academic Matching in Admissions**

**Sponsor: Yi Fang Chen**

**Co-sponsors: Mauricia Cadillo, Adele Doyle, Vito LaBella, Inga Smolyar**

**WHEREAS**, District 20 represents approximately 56,000 students and families of valuable ethnic diversity, 75% of whom fall below the poverty line. A significant proportion of our diverse population, have historically pursued goals toward screened school admissions to pave paths to educational and vocational opportunities.

**WHEREAS**, the New York City Department of Education issued new guidance on attendance as an admissions metric and a new grading policy in response to the Covid-19 pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, there is significant variability among districts in terms of how admissions traditionally work and what individual district communities are currently seeking;

**WHEREAS**, District 20 has previously established the successful use of standardized admissions criteria which has fairly placed thousands of students in screened schools throughout the District, whether in Middle School or High School.

**WHEREAS**, parents of District 20 continue to express frustration that their voices, culture, and experiences are not duly respected when implementing policy related to initiatives enacted during this pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, leadership in District 20 has historically heard and acknowledged parents who seek admission into screened opportunities and recognize objective standardized measures related to academic success as fair assessment measures.

**WHEREAS**, our district leadership has spent considerable time and effort over the years to establish standardized academic criteria which students strive to obtain.

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the DOE considering the removal of academic measures from admissions criteria for 2020-2021 school year, anxiety is raised among families that opportunities which students have worked hard towards will be unfairly taken away, without regard for all the work put in up through March 13 2020.

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Education has not contemplated discontinuing the use of other screening metrics to match students to schools, such as: geography, language, IEP status, performing and fine arts ability, age, and socioeconomic status;

**WHEREAS**, this Council has received feedback from its constituents by mail and during public comment sessions that is overwhelmingly in favor of retaining the use of academic metrics to similarly match students to their appropriate educational environment;

**WHEREAS**, in light of the recent protests here in NYC and across the country, when looking for ways to bring people together and bridge the chasm that divide us as a society, we implore you to consider ensuring that all children have access to a high quality, challenging, academically rigorous education, which has a long track history of success.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED AND DECREED** that the District 20 Community Education Council calls on the Department of Education to allow District 20 to develop and implement district appropriate and specific admission policies for D20 middle schools and D20 high schools for the upcoming admissions cycle after consultation with the district's community stakeholders.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The Community Education Council for District 20 calls on the Department of Education to retain the use of academic metrics for the 2020-2021 admissions cycle.