

September 2018

Dear Families,

Welcome back to school!

We're excited to share that District 15 is launching a districtwide plan to increase middle school diversity. This plan was created through a year-long collaboration with school leaders, educators, parents and guardians, students, and community members, and in response to recommendations from the District 15 Working Group, a diverse set of D15 stakeholders.

As part of this plan, two key changes to middle school admissions in D15 will be:

- **No More Screened Middle Schools** | D15 middle schools will now use an open admissions method. This means they will no longer screen or use applicants' academic records to evaluate or admit students. If a school has more applicants than available seats, applicants will be matched according to random selection, and some students will have priority for 52% of its seats (see below). Using random selection within priority groups will give more students access to all D15 middle schools and help diversify student populations so they better reflect the district as a whole. We believe that children from all backgrounds can learn and benefit from each other.
- **Diversity in Admissions Priority** | Applicants who are students from low-income households\*, students in temporary housing, and/or English Language Learners (ELLs) will have an admissions priority for 52% of seats at each D15 middle school.

These changes will be in place for current fifth grade students who will be applying to middle school this fall and entering middle school in Fall 2019.

To learn more about the D15 plan, please read the enclosed set of FAQs. You can also find the D15 Working Group's full list of recommendations and see how we're responding to them at [d15diversityplan.com](http://d15diversityplan.com).

Please note that these changes will *not* affect how your child applies to middle school. You can apply to up to 12 schools, including D15 schools and other schools with boroughwide (Brooklyn) or citywide programs. The application deadline is **December 3, 2018**—we'll soon be sending detailed instructions on how to apply online. In the meantime, learn more about middle school admissions, events, and key dates at [schools.nyc.gov/Middle](http://schools.nyc.gov/Middle).

Sincerely,

The Middle School Admissions Team

\* Students who qualify for the federal free and reduced-price lunch (FRL) program are considered to be from a low-income household.