

High School Admissions: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

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Q: Does my 8th grade child have to apply to a high school?

A: Yes, if your child wishes to attend a New York City Public High School. Every public school 8th grader receives an application in the fall. High school applications are also distributed to New York City private and parochial schools.

Q: *When do students apply to high school?*

A: The high school admissions process begins in the early fall for 8th graders and 9th graders who are either entering high school or wish to consider another school for 10th grade. For a complete high school admissions calendar, please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/Calendar>

Q: *How can I get more information about high school programs and the high school admissions process?*

A: There are a wide variety of ways to learn more about high school programs and the high school admissions process:

- Refer to our website, which includes information about the high school admissions process, the online high school directory, helpful publications, and the admissions calendar:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High>
- Consult the High School Directory, available in print format or online at
<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/Directory>
- Attend Citywide and Borough Fairs. Please see our calendar of events:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/Calendar>
- Attend school information sessions and open houses. Please contact the individual school for details or visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/Calendar>
- Attend our *Making Choices* workshops for parents in the summer and fall:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/Calendar>
- Speak with your school guidance counselor.

Q: *Can my child go to the school that his/her older sibling attends?*

A: There is no priority given to siblings in the high school application process, with the exception of some Charter Schools. However, a student may list a program at the same school that his/her older sibling attends.

Q: *If my child knows the high school that he/she wishes to attend, does he/she have to apply through the admissions process?*

A: Yes, every student must apply by filing a high school application to become part of the admissions process.

Q: *Are there any zoned high schools?*

A: Yes. There are some zoned high schools. Admission priority for zoned programs is given only to students who live in the school's zoned area. All students may apply by listing the zoned program for that school on their application. Not every borough has zoned programs, but you can check online to see if there are any offered in your geographical area:

1. Visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/Directory>
2. From the dropdown menu named "Borough," select your borough.
3. Next, from the dropdown menu named "Program Selection Method," select "Zoned."
4. Then click on "Search Directory." If you have zoned programs in your borough, they will be listed here.

Q: What information do high schools receive about my child during the application process?

A: Schools review the 7th grade standardized test scores in math and reading, academic grades in all subject areas and records of attendance and punctuality.

Q: My child excels in one of the performing arts areas. What would you recommend?

A: There are many schools & programs that focus on each area of the performing arts. They are listed in the printed version of the High School Directory. You can also search for specific schools and programs online at <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/Directory>. Most of these programs require that your child audition in order to demonstrate proficiency in the specific area of the program. To learn more about these schools, you should attend their Open House events and visit their websites.

Q: Which schools are the Specialized High Schools?

A: There are nine Specialized High Schools:

- Bronx High School of Science
- The Brooklyn Latin School
- Brooklyn Technical High School
- High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College
- High School of American Studies at Lehman College
- Queens High School for the Sciences at York College
- Staten Island Technical High School
- Stuyvesant High School
- Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts

Q: How can my child get into a Specialized High School?

A: Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts requires students to audition for the programs/studios they apply to.

The other eight Specialized High Schools (listed above) require students to take the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT).

Q: Who can take the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) and/or audition for the programs/studios at LaGuardia?

A: All 8th graders (and first-time 9th graders) who are New York City residents are eligible to take the SHSAT and/or audition. In September of the 8th or 9th grade, your child should inform his/her guidance counselor of his/her decision so that an admission ticket can be issued for the appropriate test or audition(s).

Q: What is the content of the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT)?

The Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) is a written test consisting of two sections: Verbal and Mathematics.

The Verbal section has three parts. In the first part, Scrambled Paragraphs, you arrange five sentences in logical order to create the best paragraph. In the second part, Logical Reasoning, you

read the information provided and choose the best answer to each question. In the third part, Reading, you analyze and interpret passages by answering questions.

The Mathematics section consists of problems to solve in arithmetic, algebra, probability, statistics and geometry. The items consist of word problems and computation questions.

Q: How can a student prepare for auditions or the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT)?

Your child should ask his/her guidance counselor for a copy of the Specialized High Schools Student Handbook which includes two sample tests. The Handbook describes audition requirements for LaGuardia's six programs/studios. You may also access the Handbook online at <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/Publications>.

Alternatively, you can visit a bookstore or library for books that include sample tests and study tips.

When you are an 8th or 9th grader, your guidance counselor will give you more specific information about the SHSAT. In the meantime, use the following suggestions to help you prepare for the test:

- Keep up with your schoolwork. It is the best possible preparation.
- Continue reading many books and articles because reading helps increase your vocabulary, comprehension and general knowledge.
- Practice taking the sample tests that are in the Specialized High Schools Student Handbook.
- Check your answers and read the explanations of the correct answers in the Handbook.
- Meet with your guidance counselor to learn about additional test prep opportunities.

Q: How can I get more details about the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT)?

A: You can get a copy of the Specialized High Schools Student Handbook from your guidance counselor or online at <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/Publications>.

Q: How do I know if a school can provide services for my child who has special needs?

A: Meet with your child's guidance counselor in order to explore the many programs available to meet the needs of your child. The High School Directory also identifies services available to students with special needs.

Q: What other factors should be considered when selecting a high school?

A: As you consider high school programs, we recommend that you consult the High School Directory, attend the High School Fairs and consider the answers to the following questions:

- Where is the school located? What is the travel time?
- What are the eligibility requirements and selection criteria for the school?
- How many students attend the school?
- What academic programs are offered?
- What extracurricular activities, clubs and sports are offered?
- Is a test or audition needed to gain admission?
- What opportunities are there for parental involvement and engagement?
- What after-school academic support is available to students?
- Does the school provide any assistance in transitioning students into high school?
- What types of services are available to English Language Learners (ELLs) at the school?

Q: *What can I do if I am new to New York City or new to public schools?*

A: For more information about new student registration and the documents required for registration, please visit our new students web page: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/NewStudents>