



Dear Prospective Middle School Family:

On March 31, 2014, the New York State Legislature passed a law prohibiting the use of the state ELA and Math tests as the sole, primary or major factor for determining placement. Specifically, the law states the following:

"[N]o school district shall make any student promotion or placement decisions based solely or primarily on student performance on the state administered standardized English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments for grades three through eight. However, a school district may consider student performance on such state assessments provided that the school district uses multiple measures in addition to such assessments and that such assessments do not constitute the major factor in such determinations."

NYS Education Law, Section 305, subdivision 47

The law requires some middle schools to make changes to their admissions policies.

Screened programs may need to change their evaluation methods for determining how students are ranked for admission. State test scores must comprise less than 50% of any rubric used for evaluating students. An example of a potential weighting system that would be permissible under State law is as follows:

- Final June Report Card Grades: 30%
- Student Performance Scores (provided by elementary schools): 30%
- 4th Grade ELA and Math scores: 30%
- Attendance: 10%

Previously, applicants to test-based programs were ranked in descending test score order to determine admission. Now, students must be evaluated on multiple measures to determine admission. Middle schools with test-based programs will also use a formula, such as the one described above, to determine who to admit on appeal.

If you have questions about the middle school appeals round, please contact MS_enrollment@schools.nyc.gov. Appeal results will be distributed to families in mid-June.

Sincerely,

Sara McPhee
Senior Director for Middle School Admissions
Office of Student Enrollment