



COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31

Dr. Roderick Palton
*Acting Interim District
Superintendent*

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COUNCIL MEMBERS
Melissa Cosentino

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Jordan Dale
Mia Perez

VACANT
ELL Representative
D31 Representative
D31 Representative
Administrative Assistant

**Community Education Council District 31
Resolution to Enhance Gifted and Talented Programs Through the
Establishment of Clear and Sustainable Eligibility Standards**

**Approved at the March 3rd, 2025 Calendar Meeting by a roll call vote of all members present
(11 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstain)**

WHEREAS, proposed New York State Bill S4015¹, Establishes Gifted & Talented programs in every district by creating accessible programs that offer advanced education from a young age, the legislation creates a pipeline of diversity from elementary to high school; and

WHEREAS, proposed New York State Bills S3445A² and A4083A³, requires the New York City Department of Education to create more gifted and talented programs and classes in all school districts with elementary kindergarten through fifth grade and intermediate sixth through eighth grade with four or more classes per grade for students who shall gain entry through academic merit rather than through an admissions examination; and authorizes automatic admission to a gifted and talented program in intermediate sixth through eighth grade for those students in elementary grades kindergarten through fifth grade who are currently enrolled in such program; and

WHEREAS, the “Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act”⁴ was signed into law on January 13, 2020 by the neighboring state of New Jersey establishing school district responsibilities to identify and educate accelerated learners; and

WHEREAS, shortly thereafter, the New Jersey Department of Education established the Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Advisory Committee⁵, consisting of five subcommittees to address law implementation, identification, programming, the intersectionality of cognitive and affective needs, and professional development to best identify and serve the needs of gifted students; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no policies requiring gifted and talented programs to maintain ongoing identification of students across all grade levels, that are appropriate for each of these age groups and assess that eligibility requirements are being consistently met for K-12; and

¹ <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S4015>

² <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S3445>

³ <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A4083>

⁴ <https://www.njea.org/strengthening-gifted-education-in-nj-signed-by-murphy/>

⁵ <https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/gifted/>

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 31

715 Ocean Terrace | Room 117 | Staten Island, New York 10301

Tel (718) 420-5746 | Fax (718) 420-5745 | Email CEC31@schools.nyc.gov | Web CEC31.org



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WHEREAS, New York City Public Schools (NYC Public Schools) lists the following academic measures to determine eligibility for current Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders in NYC public schools⁶ if they satisfy the following grade requirements on their most recently available report card (as of March 2025). Students must have course grades of a 3 or 4, or the equivalent, on their report card in Math, Reading and Writing and cannot have had a 1 in any marking period in Math, Reading, Writing, Social Studies and Science in the current school year.

WHEREAS, NYC Public Schools lists the following behaviors to help identify students who may be eligible for Gifted and Talented Programs⁷; goal orientated and is self-directed, communicates in a variety of ways about how to do things with other children and/or adults, demonstrates pro-social problem-solving skills, helps others & shows a sense of empathy, holds high expectations for self and/or others, displays strong sense of justice, and displays leadership and guides others

WHEREAS, if students currently enrolled in a gifted and talented program do not continue to meet the existing academic and behavioral requirements to be eligible for gifted and talented placement there is no action plan or policy requirement to place students in an alternative class setting that ensures academic and behavioral success; and

WHEREAS, currently withdrawal from a NYC Public School Gifted & Talented Program may only be made in writing through email at parental request;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council of District 31 (CEC31) supports parents, teachers, and school leaders who are working to ensure that students enrolled in Gifted and Talented Programs have the resources and opportunities they need to succeed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CEC31 believes that NYC Public Schools should mandate policies requiring gifted and talented programs to maintain ongoing identification of students across all grade levels, K-12 that are appropriate for each of these age groups; and be it further

⁶ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/gifted-talented>

⁷ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/gifted-talented>

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RESOLVED, that CEC31 urges that NYC Public Schools offer assessments to maintain eligibility that must consider all students, including multilingual learners, those with IEPs (Individualized Education Program), and 504 plans and that modifications to eligibility criteria may be needed to identify and include these students; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CEC31 recommends NYC Public Schools create a Gifted and Talented Education Advisory Committee within each borough that addresses Law Implementation, Identification, Programming, the Intersectionality of Cognitive and Affective Needs, and Professional Development to best identify and serve the needs of gifted students; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CEC31 insists that the assessments utilized to maintain eligibility in gifted and talented programs are not solely based on academic metrics but also require students enrolled to meet behavioral standards and code of conduct policies outlined by their District School; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CEC31 recommends in each district, with NYC Public Schools assistance, should establish its own guidelines (i.e. local norms) as to what constitutes advanced ability, performance, and behavioral conduct in that district or school in recognition of differences across NYC neighborhoods; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CEC31 requests that classroom teachers in Gifted & Talented programs in all Department of Education Pre-Kindergarten through 8th schools evaluate all students in their classes by the end of the school year to ensure that both academic and behavioral eligibility requirements are being met; and be it further

RESOLVED that CEC31 supports that any student's removal from a gifted and talented program be based on the fact that a student's academic performance and/or their classroom conduct and behavior no longer demonstrates the level of ability required for accelerated learning, as determined by a review of their progress through standardized tests, classroom observations, teacher evaluations, and that the decision should be made through a transparent process involving parents/guardians and relevant school officials, with opportunities for appeal if necessary.

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