

Press Release
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**Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater New York Supports
Senator Tony Avella and Assemblyman William Colton's
New Bills for Gifted and Talented School Programs**

The **Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater New York (CACAGNY)** applauds the new bills for **Gifted and Talented School Programs** introduced by New York State **Senator Tony Avella and Assemblyman William Colton**, which correspond to **Councilmember Robert Holden's Resolution 417**. The new bills will allow more students of every background to succeed in high school programs and beyond.

The new bills recognize the critical role of Gifted and Talented (G&T) programs in fostering and developing the academic abilities of our students from an early age. In the past several decades, the New York City school system has lost many of the G&T programs it used to run throughout the city. That has hurt the opportunities of many achieving students to get the academic preparation needed for the best high schools, including the Specialized High Schools. The new bills address the lack of G&T programs in certain districts by making sure they exist in every district for elementary and intermediate schools. This will be a means to creating a pool of high performing students from all parts of the city.

The new bills also provide for several avenues to **G&T** programs. Entry will include by academic merit rather than solely through an admissions examination. Ensuring that all NYC students interested in pursuing high academic achievement have access to these programs will raise many students who are being left behind, particularly in Black and Hispanic communities.

Key points in the new bills are:

- At the district level: Have **G&T** programs in every district for elementary and intermediate schools.
- At the school level:
 - For all elementary schools with four or more classes per grade, create at least one class in each grade for top performing students who gain entry through academic merit.
 - For all intermediate schools with four or more classes per grade, create at least one class in each grade for top performing students who gain entry through academic merit.
- Multiple entry avenues:
 - For district-wide intermediate school **G&T**, utilize an admissions examination with a competitive and objective measure of scholastic achievement.
 - Students in elementary **G&T** who have met standards in a **G&T** program from kindergarten through fifth grade could receive automatic admission to a G&T program from sixth through eighth grade.

CACAGNY supports **Senator Avella and Assemblyman William Colton's** new bills as a path to better education and a better pipeline for all groups of students, of all backgrounds, to excel and enter the best high schools in the city.



Founded in 1895 in San Francisco, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance is the oldest Chinese American civil rights organization in the United States. CACAGNY is its New York Chapter: www.CACAGNY.org

1895年在舊金山成立之同源會，是美國最古老的民權組織。紐約同源會是本地區的分會。