

The mayor ‘pitted people against each other’

John Liu, Bronx Science



Haruka Sakaguchi for The New York Times

Mr. Liu grew up in Bayside, Queens, and graduated from Binghamton University. He is keeping “an open mind” about the proposal.

“These schools have been a very central part of my life,” Mr. Liu, the former city comptroller and mayoral candidate, said. He and his brother each commuted four hours round-trip to Bronx Science; his wife graduated from Brooklyn Tech; and their son went to Stuyvesant.

As the newly appointed chair of the State Senate’s New York City education committee, he will now help determine the fate of the admissions exam.

“Asian-Americans are just as concerned about the seeming lack of diversity” as the rest of the city, Mr. Liu said. But he is furious with Mr. de Blasio and the schools chancellor, Richard A. Carranza, over how they presented their proposal.

“The way de Blasio rolled this out, he turned it in a zero-sum race based on race,” he said. “That’s an absolute nonstarter from the get-go.” The mayor, Mr. Liu added, “pitted people against each other.”

The chancellor last year said, “I just don’t buy into the narrative that any one ethnic group owns admission to these schools.” Mr. Liu said it was a comment “that nobody will forget or forgive him for.”

Related

[More views on the new approach for New York’s schools](#)