

## Look in the mirror

ambition

JAN 21, 2019



Tobyhanna, Pa.: In “The integration imperative” (Op-Ed, Jan. 3), Jamaal Bowman falsely states that NYC’s specialized high schools are racially segregated. If they were segregated, it would be a deliberate government action, which is illegal. His 7% solution isn’t the answer because the top 7% from School A may not be as academically accomplished as the 7% from School B. What’s the point of summer school if these students haven’t learned anything in eight years? Another two months won’t help. When I attended Brooklyn Tech in the 1970s, nearly half the school was non-white. Blacks and Hispanics were more than one-third the student body. Our class valedictorian was Hispanic. It’s time for progressives to stop blaming everything on racism. Why can’t they admit that the school system is failing many students? Why can’t they admit that the breakdown of families, largely due to their misguided policies, contributes to a lack of academic success? The answer is simple: They would have to admit that their god, known as government, isn’t always the answer. *Joseph Matarazzo*

## Fair is fair

Elmhurst: Jamaal Bowman suggests the racial composition of the specialized high schools is de facto evidence of “segregation.” This is an inaccurate and incendiary charge, as admission is determined by a standardized test, not by unjust policies that pick and choose students based on skin color. In fact, it’s Mayor de Blasio’s approach of tampering with the standards that will create a new injustice, by blocking Asian-American students at the schoolhouse door. Here’s what’s missing from Bowman’s idealized vision of a “diverse” classroom: the hard-working Asian-American students who will be denied opportunities, thanks to the mayor’s meddling. *Phil Wong*

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