



Est. 1895

Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater New York

39 Bowery #613 New York, N.Y. 10002

cacagny2016@gmail.com

April 29, 2018

Press Release

Bill to Abolish SHSAT Introduced in State Legislature

Bill [A10427](#) has been introduced by Assemblyman Charles Barron of Brooklyn to remove the Specialized High School Admission Test known as the SHSAT as the method of admission to schools like Stuyvesant, Bronx Science, and Brooklyn Tech. The Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater New York strongly opposes this legislation as it will have a disparate impact on Asian American students and violates their Civil Rights.

The Memo* of the bill cites the racial imbalance at these schools as the reason for introducing the bill. Presently the schools are 60% - 70% Asian American. The results of the Math and English based test determine who gets into the schools.

On Saturday, April 28th, angry Asian Americans rallied at City Hall, marched over the Brooklyn Bridge, and amassed in Cadman Plaza to protest legislation to abolish the SHSAT. We denounce such a violation of our Civil rights, and we deplore that in 2018, some City Councilmen propose the equivalent of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 in our high schools. We demand those City Councilmen to withdraw their racially discriminatory proposal.

Over the last 36 years since the SHSAT was officially mandated by NY State Law in 1972, a school like Brooklyn Tech has experienced being predominantly White, predominantly Black and Hispanic and now predominantly Asian American. CACAGNY feels the racial makeup of the Specialized High Schools is not determined by the SHSAT but by demographics and how prepared certain groups are educationally. CACAGNY feels the NYC public education policies over the last 20 years has been immensely inadequate, particularly for those who depend solely on public schools.

* A10427 Memo

Justification

Furthermore, using this test as the sole basis for admission further exacerbates the racial gap persistent in the enrollment of these schools. Combined white and Asian students account for 70 percent of the students admitted to these schools, conversely Black and Hispanic children make up 72 percent of citywide enrollment in the public school system but only account for 11 percent of the student enrollment at these institutions. Research has consistently shown that minorities perform worse on standardized test than their white counterparts.

The CACA was established in 1895 and is the oldest group in the US advocating for Chinese American Civil Rights. There are chapters throughout the country and existed in New York in 1916.

"Leadership, Empowerment, and Advocacy"