

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater N.Y. (CACAGNY)
紐約同源會

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CACAGNY urges more electeds and candidates to defend Gifted & Talented Programs

New York City's public schools are an unmitigated disaster. Despite higher spending per student than every public school system in the US and every country in the world, half of its elementary and middle school students are not proficient in English, or Math, or both. It's no surprise, then, that in many parts of the nation and advanced countries in the world, the City's Gifted & Talented (G&T) programs would simply be called "school."

And now, De Blasio and Carranza want to shut down G&T programs.

De Blasio faults G&T programs because they admit only 2,500 students: in a one-million-large system, there must be "a hell of a lot more kids who have talents and abilities!" (Bklyner 1/13/21) Well, if that's so, isn't the obvious solution to expand, not shut down, G&T programs? Or, if he thinks there are better ways to do G&T, then create those! But also keep the current G&Ts, because at 15,000 kids vying for 2,500 seats, there's clearly overwhelming demand for them as they are, with a single test given to kids pre-K through 2nd grade. When something already works so well for families, *add*, don't take away!

Carranza contradicted his boss before he agreed with his boss, saying we have too many, not too few, G&T students. When over 35% of our students are gifted and talented, he sneered, we should "bottle the water we're drinking" to give to the rest of the world (New York Post 2/21/19). Actually, Carranza couldn't do the math; fewer than 5% are in G&T programs. But he's right in that NYC's G&T is not real G&T. It'd just be plain "school" in better places. We know that. We don't all have little Einsteins. But we fight for so-called "G&T"-- and screened schools -- because, to put it bluntly, too much of the rest of Carranza's disastrous school system *just isn't school*.

We thank all the electeds and candidates who, from their own perspectives and with their own reasons, pushed back against De Blasio and Carranza in the past few days. We urge other electeds and candidates to step up and do the right thing. Our families are desperate for decent schools -- if they are to stay in the City.

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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

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