

CACAGNY Sends Unique Message to Students Receiving Specialized High School Offers

April 30, 2021

By now, you students who received offers to a Specialized High School for this fall had a day to digest the exciting news. You did well; your SHSAT score exceeded the threshold that was competitively calculated for the Specialized High School you selected. CACAGNY sends you a unique message:

Hearty congratulations to you for your remarkable accomplishment, and to your family that lovingly encouraged your hard work all these years!

What is outrageous and shameful, of course, is that such a message should be unique.

Education Chancellor Meisha Ross Porter reacted to the SHSAT results with the Twitter (bold added): “I know from my 21 years as an educator that far more students could thrive in our Specialized High Schools, if only given a chance. Instead, the continued use of the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test will produce the same **unacceptable results** over and over again, and it’s far past the time for students to be **fairly represented** in these schools. The State law that requires the City to administer the exam must be repealed so we can partner with our communities to find a more **equitable way** forward, **to do right** by all our children.”

In other words, your acceptance into a Specialized High School is an **unacceptable result**. The process was **not fair**. It is **not equitable** that you have a seat at a Specialized High School. All your years of studying hard is **not doing right**. This, from our “Education” Chancellor.

Reema Amin, reporter for self-described “essential education reporting” Chalkbeat, reacted to the SHSAT announcement with the snarky Twitter “Well, it’s that time of the year again. SHSAT offer data is out, and the percentage of offers that went to Black and Hispanic students dropped this year compared to last year.” Eliza Shapiro, who when young did “months of \$\$ test prep” for the SHSAT but “didn’t get into any of the schools” (her Twitter), headlined the SHSAT results this way in her New York Times story: “Only 8 Black Students are Admitted to Stuyvesant High School.”

In other words, your achievement is completely ignored because **you are of the wrong race. Too many Asians. “You don’t belong here.”** That’s exactly what Brandon Elliot shouted when he brutally stomped on a 65-year-old Asian woman in broad daylight in mid-Manhattan on April 5, causing her serious injury including a fractured pelvis. This is hatred against Asians in action. This is anti-Asian racism in action.

We tell you this: haters are going to be haters, racists are going to be racists. Never apologize for studying. Never apologize for working hard. Never apologize for having a loving, supportive family. And never let them gaslight you into thinking that you are guilty, not because of what you’ve done, but because of your race. The Chinese have been through this before. It took decades to end the Chinese Exclusion Acts, which also targeted the Chinese for working too hard too well. Just be determined to work twice as hard, twice as well. Succeed. Show them. **We shall overcome.**

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