

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater N.Y. (CACAGNY)

紐約同源會

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Nicole Malliotakis Joins CACAGNY Members and Parents at Christa McAuliffe to Protest SHSAT Changes

NYS Assemblymember and Member of NYS Assembly Education Committee Nicole Malliotakis, CACAGNY President Wai Wah Chin, Christa McAuliffe PTO President Vito LaBella, and Phillip Wong, plaintiff in Christa McAuliffe PTO vs DeBlasio, met on Friday, January 25, 2019 before Christa McAuliffe IS 187 in Brooklyn, NY to oppose Mayor DeBlasio and Chancellor Carranza's discriminatory 7% quota plan and expansion of the Discovery program for admissions to New York City Specialized High Schools.

The proposed changes intentionally limit the number of Asian American students. They drastically reduce the number of students accepted from Christa McAuliffe, the school sending more students to Specialized High Schools than any other school in New York, as well as from many other high performing middle schools. At the same time, they do nothing to improve the failing K-8 education that prevents students from being prepared for the best higher education.

Wai Wah Chin, President of CACAGNY, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, said, "We deplore the proposed changes that are designed to discriminate against Asian American students in this city. The Transcontinental Railroad was completed 150 years ago with Chinese laborers who came, did tremendously dangerous and difficult tasks, completed the work way ahead of schedule, and helped unite the country, from coast to coast. At the end, to commemorate the completion, no Chinese was allowed. The Chinese Exclusion Act was then enacted to exclude these good workers. And today, we are facing another Exclusion Act in education as Asian Americans are targeted because they perform well, but don't look like what the Mayor wants. That is an outrage in this day and age. We should all be judged by our performance, and not punished for that because of race."

Vito LaBella, President of the Christa McAuliffe PTO, lead plaintiff in the lawsuit, stated, "The test is not the problem. The problem is bad K-8 education and the lack of G&T programs. The test is the messenger. Don't shoot the messenger. Respect the message. Christa McAuliffe sends more kids than any other school to the Specialized High Schools because its kids are prepared and dedicated to their studies. We need to have more rigorous and challenging programs throughout the city, and we should have G&T programs in every district. Then we can build the pipeline of prepared students to the Specialized High Schools from every area."

Phil Wong said, "The test doesn't look at your race, your gender, your religion, your appearance, your wealth, your parents' connections. The Specialized High Schools have more poor than the screened high schools, which admit by multiple criteria. It is inaccurate and incendiary to say the schools are segregated when admissions are determined by a standardized test, not by biased and unjust policies that select by skin color. The proposed changes will create a new injustice."

Wai Wah Chin said, "We thank Assemblymember Nicole Malliotakis for standing with us and speaking against the proposed changes to the admissions policies for the Specialized High Schools."



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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