

CACAGNY Statement on G&T

October 10, 2021

As if the world needs another reminder that when the woke say “equity,” they just mean “dumb down,” mayor De Blasio axed the City’s Gifted and Talented (G&T) Program on October 8, 2021. “We are ending something I thought was unfair all along,” trumpeted De Blasio at the Lehrer show; Asian kids are 43% of G&T. His woke supporters cheered the death of this “glaring symbol of segregation.”

De Blasio did toss out a shiny slogan for some vague “acceleration for all” to replace G&T, but nobody is buying it since he can’t get even 15% of his students to be proficient in Math, Science, and English.

Dumbing down for “equity” is a nationwide plague. Calculus classes are canceled from high schools because of “diversity”: “too many” Asian and White students. Algebra classes are banned from middle schools because Black students are not “included” in them. In elementary schools, rigorous Math is replaced by “culturally responsive” “inquiry-based” Math to fit students’ “lived experiences,” i.e. learning to do Math is replaced by Math appreciation. “Anti-racist” districts around the country are “overhauling” grading standards because too many Black students are getting failing grades.

This is the unmistakable language of Critical Race Theory (CRT), which has taken over our schools. So how does this “equity” help a Black student? Does he do Math better? And what does such dumbing-down for him tell him?

That G&T works no one can dispute. The outcomes parents see with their own eyes. Even the woke say that G&T prepares students well – too well – for high-performing high schools. That’s why they hate it.

Yet the woke still claim that tracking and subsequent acceleration – i.e. G&T – doesn’t work, citing “research.” Well, “research” in the field of education would be taken more seriously if it weren’t riddled with circular reasoning and idea laundering and, most damningly, didn’t flop spectacularly again and again over the past several decades in real-world outcomes. In the real world, parents see, with their own eyes, that G&T works.

The woke claim that testing only 4-year-olds for G&T is absurd. Yet we know that by 18 months, children already show disparate cognitive abilities; that’s why G&T does work, and parents see that. Furthermore, testing only 4-year-olds is purely the City’s doing; G&T testing is available from pre-K through 2nd grade, but the pre-Ks use up almost all available seats. That’s a City-created scarcity problem that the City can fix simply by adding G&T seats for later grades. Blame that on De Blasio.

The woke claim that wealthy parents get their kids prepped for the G&T test. Never mind that proportionately more G&T students are Asian, and Asians have the highest poverty rate in NYC. But we don’t disqualify an athlete because he trained long and hard for the match, we don’t disqualify a violinist because she practiced long and hard for the audition, and we don’t

disqualify an actor because he rehearsed long and hard for the tryout. Kids come into first grade already three or more grades apart in performance. The first grader who is advanced for whatever reason is still entitled to an appropriate education, even if he is White or rich. He has the same rights as all other kids.

The woke claim that there are better ways to do G&T. Yes! CACAGNY has long supported bills like Senator Addabbo's S3445A and Assemblyman Colton's A4083A that expand G&T into all parts of the City; we also welcome proposals for new accelerated programs, with new formats, admissions, etc. But there is no reason to kill "Classic" G&T – one of the few successful, highly demanded City school programs – while introducing a "New" G&T. As the largest school district in the country big enough to swallow five entire Philadelphia school systems, and with funding exceeding \$46,000 per student this year, the City can certainly run more than one G&T program!

But the city won't, despite all our winning arguments. Why? Because we are arguing against shadows: taking away G&T is not about education, which the woke are obviously dumbing down. It's about "equity," which means equal outcomes in CRT. And you don't get to equal outcomes by expanding opportunities under equal rights, i.e. by adding more programs; you get to equal outcomes by taking away, i.e. by axing G&T. If you nourish the lawn, all grass will grow better but not to equal heights; if you mow the lawn, all grass will be equally short. The woke's education arguments are covers for CRT. And CRT is about racial retribution: to take things away from Whites, to punish Whites for privilege. The goal is for Whites to lose, even if Blacks aren't helped, and Asians be damned. That's why adding new programs while keeping G&T is not an option for the woke; they must take G&T away. It's CRT we are facing.

CACAGNY seeks to make common cause with parents around the country, all diverse in the specific hate and vindictiveness they face, but all united by the commitment to stand up to racist, divisive, totalitarian CRT.

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