

NewYorkAppleseed[®]

New York, one of the world's most diverse cities, is also home to one of the most segregated school systems in the nation. The persistence of school segregation has led to huge educational disparities along racial and economic lines as well as for English Language Learners. Though ending segregation will require a sustained effort by city agencies and the people of New York, we have identified three actionable solutions that are necessary and crucial for meaningful school integration.

Solution: Gifted and Talented (G&T) services in every classroom.

The Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM) integrates G&T services into the general education classroom, increasing the accessibility of services.

Problem: Segregated Gifted and Talented (G&T) programs

- Every year thousands of kids who are eligible for G&T classes do not receive them because of the limited availability of G&T services.
- Segregation of G&T students results in learning losses for most students, especially in the social-emotional leadership skills most prized by employers.
- Integrated classrooms are an investment in the accelerated and enriched learning opportunities parents want for their children, but our current system can not offer.

Solution: Utilize 21st-century student assignment strategies.

Emulate the successful efforts of integration plans, such as the District 15 plan, by prioritizing diversity in admissions practices.

Problem: Segregation within Community School Districts

- Assignment by zone and access to unfettered school choice perpetuates segregation in elementary schools.
- Current methods of student assignment to elementary school and middle school lead to preventable concentrations of advantages such as resources and funding.

Solution: Permanently Eliminate Middle School Screenings

The temporary pause on middle school screening must become permanent Department of Education policy.

Problem: Segregation within Community School Districts

- Segregating nine year old children by perceived academic ability causes harm to our most vulnerable students and prevents all students from reaping the academic and social benefits of integrated classrooms.
- Middle School screening is a proven cause of segregation within NYC schools.