# Community District Education Council 28
### New York City Department of Education

## Resolution on Improving the Use of Random Numbers for Admissions Placement

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**WHEREAS** random numbers are assigned to an applicant when the application process is initiated for admissions to 3- K, pre-K, kindergarten, middle schools, or high schools; and

**WHEREAS** the random numbers are long strings of hexadecimal numerals that are used to determine the priority in receiving offers where the number of applicants exceeds the number of available seats at a given program; and

**WHEREAS** an ascending order of the random numbers (0, 1, 2 ... 9, A, B, C, D, E, F) is used to determine placement priority, such that smaller numbers, e.g. - those that start with a zero, are most favorable versus large numbers, e.g. - those that start with the letter F, are least favorable; and

**WHEREAS** an applicant can list up to 12 programs on an application, and the same randomly assigned number is repeatedly used in the algorithm to determine placement priority during each placement iteration; and

**WHEREAS** re-randomized assigned numbers in the process for placement on waitlists, can partially counteract the inequity of being assigned an unfavorable number; and

**WHEREAS** the criteria for prioritizing second and consecutive round choices is not transparent to families; and

**WHEREAS** not all families receive even one offer when all 12 application slots are correctly submitted: and

**WHEREAS** narrow group size for screened schools to increase placement chances for higher ranking students.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** Community Education Council 28 (CEC 28) urges the Chancellor to direct the Office of Student Enrollment to make the process for high school admission second and subsequent rounds selections more transparent and detailed to families; and

**BE IT RESOVED** that the Office of Student Enrollment give priority preference in subsequent selection cycles to students who did not receive any offers from a completely and correctly filled out application; and

**BE IT RESOVED** that the Office of Student Enrollment give second priority preference in subsequent selection cycles to be to students with special accommodations such as sibling preferences, who received low any offers from a completely and correctly filled out application; and

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**BE IT RESOVED** that the Office of Student Enrollment give third priority preference in subsequent selection cycles to all other students who received low assigned numbers on wait lists from a completely and correctly filled out application; and

**BE IT RESOVED** that the NYC Schools set up a task force to review and create a more optimal process to ensure all incoming NYC high school students have a fairer chance to receive favorable offers during the High School Admissions process.