

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL 28

Resolution

Urging Siting of Queens High School for the Sciences at York College (28Q687) at 28Q497

APPROVED at the **June 12, 2025 Calendar Meeting** by a vote of the CEC D28 voting members present at the time of the vote (11 in favor / 0 opposed / 0 abstain / 1 absent)

Sponsors: Simone Dornbach, Lauren Clavin, Quentin Mezetin

Co-Sponsors: Nathifa Lewis, Julie Suh, Lu Zhao, Gurumurthy Kalyanaram, Yutao Cheng, Jennifer Sobers

WHEREAS, Mayor Eric Adams has repeatedly expressed his commitment to expanding Specialized High School seats in every borough, thereby promoting equitable access to rigorous academic programs throughout New York City¹; and

WHEREAS, Queens High School for the Sciences at York College, 28Q687, (QHSS) serves 511 students, making it the smallest and the only test-based Specialized High School located in Queens²; and

WHEREAS, QHSS has lacked adequate facilities since its inception 23 years ago.³ QHSS does not have any gym (students use York College's gym 2 blocks away), any

¹ Skelding, C. (2022, April 9). *Eric Adams floats building a new specialized school in each NYC borough*. New York Post.

<https://nypost.com/2022/04/09/eric-adams-eyes-building-specialized-schools-in-each-nyc-borough/>

² <https://www.myschools.nyc>

³ Li, A. (2025, April 22). *Queens High School for the Sciences at York College is a school without a home*. New York Post.

<https://nypost.com/2025/04/22/lifestyle/queens-high-school-for-the-sciences-at-york-college-is-a-school-without-a-home/>

cafeteria (cold bag lunch is provided instead), and any auditorium. QHSS has to rent out space from York College to hold regent exams, AP exams, and assemblies. 500 students share space on the very tight and overcrowded 2nd floor and basement. The lack of space prevents enrichment programs, extracurricular activities and being in compliance with the class size mandate.

WHEREAS, the total number of specialized high school seats in New York City is 15,732, meaning the seat capacity of 511 at Queens High School for the Sciences at York College accounts for only 3.2% citywide⁴; and

WHEREAS, 28% of 8th graders in New York City Public Schools are in Queens⁵; and

WHEREAS, 1,305 8th graders in Queens received offers to specialized high schools or 32% of all offers made city-wide⁶; and

WHEREAS, the severe shortage of specialized high school seats in Queens forces approximately four thousand underserved Queens students to endure commutes of up to two hours to travel to the Bronx, Brooklyn, or Manhattan to attend specialized high schools⁷; and

WHEREAS, a viable partial solution exists in the form of the unnamed high school facility (28Q497) under construction at 165-15 88th Avenue in Jamaica, which is designed to have a capacity of 800 seats and is scheduled for completion by September 3, 2026 (SCA Project No. DSF0000911858)⁸; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Education Council 28 (CEC 28) urges Queens South High School Superintendent Dr. Josephine Van-Ess and the NYC Department of Education to site Queens High School for the Sciences at York College (28Q687) at the location designated for the unnamed high school facility (28Q497) currently under construction at 165-15 88th Avenue in Jamaica, Queens; and

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ *Counties* | NYSED Data Site. (n.d.). Data.nysed.gov. <https://data.nysed.gov/lists.php?type=county>

⁶ *Admissions Outcomes*. (2023). Nyced.org. <https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/admissions-and-enrollment/admissions-outcomes>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ NYCSCA *Official Website* > *Community* > *Capital Plan Reports & Data*. (2017). Nycsca.org. <http://nycsca.org/Community/Capital-Plan-Reports-Data>

This resolution is based on the CEC 26 Resolution "[Urging Siting of a New Specialized High School at 28Q497](#)" passed on March 20, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC 28 demands the NYC Department of Education Office of District Planning to include in its long-term plans to address the inequitable and grossly disproportionate lack of (specialized) high school seats in Queens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC 28 demands the NYC Department of Education Office of District Planning to report annually on the status of its plans to sharply increase the number of (specialized) high school seats in Queens during its annual data presentation to CEC 24, CEC 25, CEC 26, CEC 27, CEC 28, CEC 29, CEC 30, and the Citywide Council on High Schools.