

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL 28

## DRAFT Resolution Urging Siting of a New Specialized High School at 28Q497

**Sponsors:** Simone Dornbach, Lauren Clavin, Quentin Mezetin

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

**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 City<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Queens High School for the Sciences at York College (28Q687) serves 511 students, making it the smallest and the only test-based Specialized High School located in Queens<sup>2</sup>; and

**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% citywide<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, 28% of 8th graders in New York City Public Schools are in Queens<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, 1,305 8th graders in Queens received offers to specialized high schools or 32% of all offers made city-wide<sup>5</sup>; 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 schools<sup>6</sup>; 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.myschools.nyc>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> *Counties | NYSED Data Site*. (n.d.). Data.nysed.gov. <https://data.nysed.gov/lists.php?type=county>

<sup>5</sup> *Admissions Outcomes*. (2023). Nyced.org.

<https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/admissions-and-enrollment/admissions-outcomes>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

capacity of 800 seats and is scheduled for completion by September 3, 2026 (SCA Project No. DSF0000911858)<sup>7</sup>; 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 a specialized high school at the location designated for the unnamed high school facility (28Q497) currently under construction at 165-15 88th Avenue in Jamaica, Queens; and

**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.

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<sup>7</sup> 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.