

High School Admissions: Where Do I Start?

Learn the Basics

➔ **The high school admissions process is a “match” process.** This means that while you may apply to many high schools/programs, you will only receive admission to one. There are over 400 high schools in New York City, and you may apply to any high school in the city. Some high schools have more than one program to which 8th graders may apply. Each program will have its own name, interest area and course offerings. You may apply to multiple programs at the same high school.

➔ **Admissions Methods** are the various processes schools use to consider or evaluate applicants for each program. The eight Admissions Methods are:

1. **Audition:** Students must demonstrate proficiency in the specified area of performing arts/visual arts.
2. **Educational Option (Ed. Opt.):** Programs designed to attract a wide range of academic performers. Each program has a certain proportion of seats for students from the high, middle, and low reading level.
3. **Limited Unscreened:** Priority to students who demonstrate interest in the school by attending a school’s Information Session or Open House events or visiting the school’s exhibits at one of the High School Fairs.
4. **Screened:** Students are evaluated based on their grades, standardized test scores, and other factors such as attendance, punctuality, interview, essay or additional diagnostic test score.
5. **Screened for Language:** Programs only for students with a minimum level of English language proficiency. Priority is given to students whose home/native language matches that of the individual program.
6. **Test:** Programs that require you to take the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) for entrance. For high schools requiring the SHSAT, only the test score determines eligibility.
7. **Unscreened:** Students who apply are selected randomly.
8. **Zoned:** Programs that give priority to students who apply and live in the geographic zoned area of the high school. (Note: Manhattan does not have zoned high schools.)

For more information about Admissions Methods, see page v of the High School Directory.

➔ **Admissions Priorities** lists the order in which applicants are considered for any given school. If you look at any school in the High School Directory, you will see a section called “Admissions Priorities” on the left side of the page.

Example: Wings Academy (page 120 in the High School Directory)

Enrollment

Admissions Priorities

1. Priority to Bronx students or residents
2. Then to New York City residents

Wings Academy has two programs to which 8th graders may apply (see “Programs Offered” on page 120). For one program, the *Admissions Method* is “Ed. Opt.” while for the other it is “Audition.” Yet for the entire school, there is a set of *Admissions Priorities* (see left). This means that for entry into Wings Academy, no matter which program students apply to, Bronx students and residents will be considered/admitted before other New York City residents.

For more information about Admissions Priorities, see page iii of the High School Directory.

Get to Know the High School Directory

The High School Directory is your comprehensive guide to the High School Admissions process. The High School Directory is divided into sections by borough. Each section includes the profile of every high school located in that borough, in alphabetical order.

➔ For more information about the content found here, check out page iii of your 2011-2012 High School Directory.

Each high school's page will provide the following information:

Contact Information: Address, phone number, fax number, open house information, Site Accessibility and other important information that pertains to contacting the school

Enrollment: Total Students, Grades in 2012-2013, Admissions Priorities, Special Education Services and ELL Programs

Accountability Data: This table provides the Progress Report grade, Quality Review score and Graduation Rate for the school. The data listed as 2008-2009 are taken from the 2008-2009 school year and the data listed as 2009-2010 are taken from the 2009-2010 school year

School Type Indicator: When applicable, a school type indicator is located at the top right of a school's directory page. These indicators include: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Schools, International Schools, Small Learning Community (SLC) Schools and Specialized Schools

Overview: Program Highlights, Language Classes, Advanced Placement Courses, Extracurricular Activities, Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) Sports Teams, School Sports

Additional Information: Typical Freshman Schedule, Uniform/Dress Code Requirements, Academic Portfolio Requirements

Programs Offered: Program Name, Code, Admissions Method, 2010 Program Seats and Applicants, Selection Criteria, Audition Information



Quick Response (QR) Codes: These black and white, square images can be photographed using a code scanner program on your Smartphone*. When scanned, the program will generate the school's online Admissions page, which provides additional information about the school as well as links to the school portal and independent website (if applicable).

*QR Codes require an internet-capable phone and QR Code reader program.

➔ When you're reviewing the High School Directory, consider the following:

- Location:** What schools are nearby your home?
- School Size:** Are you looking for a large school with many curricular and extracurricular offerings, or a small school with a close-knit community?
- Interest Areas, Curriculum and Courses:** What are your academic interests and strengths? Are you looking for a high school with any particular focus or specific courses?
- Extracurricular Activities:** What types of extracurriculars (including sports and clubs) would help round out your academic experience?