

## **CoalitionEDU**

Fighting to Improve NYC Public Schools

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CoalitionEDU Advocates to Protect the SHSAT**

**New York, NY - June 2nd, 2018** - Following the recent announcement from the Office of Mayor Bill de Blasio, CoalitionEDU has decided to reject the mayor's decision to back legislation that removes the merit-based Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) and replaces it with an arbitrary selection process from various middle schools. The New York City Department of Education (DOE) fails to provide Black and Hispanic communities with an adequate education starting from the early elementary years. The push to remove the SHSAT is only a way to avoid discussing the actual systemic failures that prevent more than 75% of Black and Hispanic students in New York City from achieving Common Core proficiency.

The SHSAT is based on Common Core proficiency standards that are taught up to the 8th grade in all New York City public schools. Nothing students encounter on the exam is different from what they should have been taught in school. Based on the research conducted, CoalitionEDU believes Black and Hispanic students struggle to do well on the SHSAT due to a systemic failure to provide adequate education to Black and Hispanic communities.

Based on the data collected by the New York City Department of Education, fewer than 25% of Black and Hispanic students were Common Core proficient from 2013 to 2017. Asian and White students, in comparison, consistently scored well. Over 50% of both Asian and White communities were proficient in Common Core standards. The data shows the following between the years of 2013 and 2017:

- 496,744 Black students were tested in Common Core Mathematics - 19% Proficient
- 835,191 Hispanic students were tested in Common Core Mathematics - 23% Proficient

- 503,783 Black students were tested in Common Core ELA - 21% Proficient
- 828,370 Hispanic students were tested in Common Core ELA - 23% Proficient

Mayor Bill de Blasio is committing educational malpractice by avoiding the systemic issues in the Department of Education, which effectively prevents Black and Hispanic communities from ever doing well within our education system. By avoiding the issue, and instead scapegoating the SHSAT, the Department of Education and the Mayor are effectively denying an entire generation of Black and Hispanic students the right to an education. CoalitionEDU firmly believes that the SHSAT is a fair, merit-based exam that accurately and fairly represents students' learning. Furthermore, CoalitionEDU believes that the New York City Department of Education is avoiding an integral systemic issue that affects Black and Hispanic students by scapegoating the SHSAT.

CoalitionEDU is a network of alumni, students, parents, and others who support the traditions of the Specialized High Schools of New York City. Our goal is to ensure that the community at large is educated on the extensive issues that plague the New York City Public Schools while protecting the SHSAT-only admissions policy for the Specialized High Schools.

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