



Legislation Text

File #: Res 1588-2012, **Version:** *

Res. No. 1588

Resolution calling upon the New York City Department of Education to provide enough seats in middle school Gifted and Talented programs for each student who graduates from his or her elementary school's Gifted and Talented program, in the respective borough in which the student resides or in the respective borough in which the student's school is located.

By Council Members Vallone, Dromm, Wills, Arroyo, Brewer, Cabrera, Eugene, Ferreras, Fidler, Gentile, James, Koo, Koppell, Williams, Rodriguez, Lappin and Halloran

Whereas, The New York City Department of Education (DOE) Gifted and Talented (G&T) programs provide challenging instruction to children with exceptional academic capacity; and

Whereas, According to the DOE, G&T students are identified after a rigorous testing process; and

Whereas, Starting in kindergarten, students are grouped together in a class with similar students and receive appropriate instruction in all content areas; and

Whereas, Depending upon availability, some students are able to remain in the G&T program through the end of middle school; and

Whereas, The admissions process, according to the DOE, includes the administration of verbal and nonverbal assessments at various times from January through February, and the scores become available in May; and

Whereas, Students with a composite score at or above the 90th percentile on the admissions test receive an application upon which they can rank their preferences for G&T programs in their district; and

Whereas, Students with a composite score at or above the 97th percentile on the admissions test can apply for acceptance into one of the five elite citywide gifted and talented schools; and

Whereas, According to the DOE, in 2012, a total of 14,249 preschoolers took the hour-long G&T test

and nearly 5,000 qualified for G&T kindergarten seats at either a citywide or district school, a 22 percent increase from last year; and

Whereas, In response to a shortage of G&T middle school seats, on October 12, 2012, DOE released a proposal which would require students to be re-tested to remain in the G&T program when graduating into middle school; and

Whereas, In four of the five citywide gifted and talented schools, students are automatically guaranteed middle school G&T seats upon elementary school graduation; and

Whereas, However, in some areas of the city, such as Community School District 30, where there is only one G&T middle school program with four classes, there will be no guarantee that a child currently enrolled in his or her elementary school's G&T program will remain in a G&T program in middle school; and

Whereas, In 2012, 600 students applied for the 60 middle school seats that remained in Community School District 30; and

Whereas, In order to ensure that eligible children are not shut out of G&T programs upon graduation into middle school, more seats need to be added to G&T programs across the city; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York City Department of Education to provide enough seats in middle school Gifted and Talented programs for each student who graduates from his or her elementary school's Gifted and Talented program, in the respective borough in which the student resides or in the respective borough in which the student's school is located.

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