

**September 27, 2012**

**Statement of Advocates for Children of New York (AFC) in support of the complaint filed by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, and Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College challenging the test-only admissions policy for NYC's Specialized High Schools**

Advocates for Children of New York (AFC) is dedicated to protecting every child's right to an education and to changing education policy so that the public school system serves all children of New York City effectively. AFC therefore supports the complaint filed today with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, and the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College challenging the admissions policy for New York City's Specialized High Schools.

The policy uses applicants' rank-ordered scores on a single multiple choice exam as the sole criterion for admission. Reliance on a single test advantages those who have access to test preparation classes over those who do not.

"While the specialized high school exam was conceived as a way to ensure that the students with the most merit were offered opportunities to attend these prestigious schools, in reality the test-only policy advantages those who have the resources to take classes on how to approach the questions on the exam," said Kim Sweet, AFC Executive Director. "The result is an admissions policy that takes an overly narrow view of academic merit, and closes the doors of opportunity on many students who would likely succeed at the Specialized High Schools if given the chance."