

Statement by David C. Bloomfield, Professor of Education Leadership, Law, and Policy at Brooklyn College and The City University of New York Graduate Center* in Support of the Complaint to the U.S. Office of Civil Rights that the admissions process for New York City's elite high schools violates Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulations

For over 40 years, New York City has used rank-ordered high stakes test results to determine admission to its elite public high schools. This process has resulted in disproportionately low representation by high-achieving Black and Latino students whose academic talents are often equal to or superior to their admitted peers and denies them a prime gateway to higher education opportunities.

Research since the statutory requirement of a single rank ordered test was instituted has shown conclusively that such a single measure is neither fair nor scientifically justifiable. Its effect is to deny a diverse educational environment to all students and to increase detrimental racial isolation among those few Black and Latino students in attendance. Simply put, the process of admission to these schools is not only arbitrary and discriminatory but leads to diminished education for all.

Replacing the single rank ordered SHSAT results with multiple achievement measures will increase the quality of these schools, as in the elite colleges and universities to which these students often aspire. Maintaining the status quo is legally, educationally, and socially unconscionable.

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