



**Booker T. Washington Middle School 54  
Parent Teacher Association**

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Tel#: 212-678-2861 Federal Tax ID#: 13-4098842

1 May 2019

City Council Speaker Corey Johnson  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Re: High School Admissions

Dear Speaker Johnson,

The community at Booker T Washington Middle School and others throughout District 3 are concerned about the high school admissions process.

Members of our school community have written hundreds of letters expressing grave concern about the impact Mayor de Blasio's Specialized High School proposal will have on students in our school and district. Each year, the majority of District 3's eighth graders apply to the Specialized High Schools. The fact is, they have no alternatives appropriate to their academic level. And, at the end of the process, about half of those students earn offers. But if the mayor's proposal passes, that number would plummet to less than 100. At Booker T alone, the more than 150 who have typically taken seats would be reduced to 20.

Those District 3 students are in the only Manhattan district without admissions priority to any high schools in their district and are restricted from many of the high-performing schools outside of D3 due to admissions priorities granted to other districts.

In a city where only 5% of high schools offer at least 4 STEM AP classes, it's clear that New York City needs more high-quality college prep high school seats.

We are asking our city council to support their constituents in ensuring the DOE delivers on their promise of "meeting every student where they are, and providing the support, resources, and high expectations for them to achieve at consistently high rates."

We appreciate your attention to this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Jerome Kramer and Chris Giordano in black ink.

Jerome Kramer and Chris Giordano  
MS54 Parent Teacher Association

cc: Mark Treyger, Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Inez D. Barron, Joseph C. Borelli, Justin L. Brannan, Robert E. Cornegy, Jr., Daniel Dromm, Barry S. Grodenchik, Ben Kallos, Andy L. King, Brad S. Lander, Stephen T. Levin, Mark Levine, Ydanis A. Rodriguez, Deborah L. Rose, Rafael Salamanca, Jr. and Eric A. Ulrich