

## High school FAQs

**Should I make an appointment with the counselor to discuss high school options during the 7th grade year?** No - it is our policy not to meet with 7th grade families as we are already consumed with working with our 8th grade families and fulfilling our other responsibilities as counselors. It is also too premature to be discussing high school options before having done any prior research on your own. The student's interests, needs, and even location may change by 8th grade. Everything you need to know in order to give you a jump start is right here on the webpage!

**Do high schools see where a student ranked them?** No - schools do not have access to any student's completed high school application.

**Do we get confirmation of submitted online activities from the high schools?** Unfortunately no - each school has their own method to their madness and as a counseling team, we are not notified. Some schools send auto-confirmations, and others do not. What we do receive, from NYC iSchool in particular, are those students who applied but did not complete the online activity; which we will then notify you should this occur.

**How come my child didn't get a ticket for Art & Design, PPAS, Talent Unlimited, etc?** Only LaGuardia HS requires an audition ticket. All other schools require preregistration by the counselors which is accomplished by filling out the online survey that is available to fill out in the beginning of September.

**Does the ranking of a high school have an impact on my child's receiving an offer from that school?** Yes, to a certain degree - there is an algorithm that will place your child at a higher percentage of getting into that school should the student rank them high. This relates mainly to limited unscreened schools.

**Why do some students NOT get an offer in the first round?** A student may not get an offer in the first round for a number of reasons, however, a big reason is if they have not met the criteria for the schools listed on their application. Examples of other reasons would be: # of schools listed, district priority, if you were able to attend as many info sessions for the limited unscreened schools.

**Do any District 2 schools accept our students?** Some do - the District 2 school who has not accepted our students in the past is Baruch. The two schools that go out of their way to accept out of district students are: The Museum School and School of the Future.

**Do we list Specialized High Schools and/or LaGuardia among the 12 high schools on the application?** No - the specialized high schools and LaGuardia are listed separately in another section on the same application.

**If my child applies to more than one program in a school, does that take up more than one choice line on the application?** Yes - each program will have a different code and will take up a choice on the application.

**Some schools have said I have to list them first in order for my child to have a chance of getting in. Is that true? No - this is not true. At the least, the school has to be listed on the application, but not necessarily first. Where a school is ranked on your list is super important, however, listing a particular school first isn't a guarantee of your acceptance.**

**How can I tell what a school is like if I can't visit it? Research, research, research. Visit their website, and other websites like insideschools.org. The directory of NYC public high schools also provides a breadth of information. Does your child have a friend who has an older sibling in high school? Can you get in touch with some parents who have been through this process before? Is it possible for you to attend an info session? You can also ask us! :)**

**Is it important to go to high school fairs? Very much! There are certain schools that give priority to those students who were able to attend - it shows interest in their school, which is what they want to see!**

**Should my child audition for LaGuardia even though he/she has not been a serious artist/performer/theater technician in the past? This is completely up to you and the student, however, the programs are incredibly rigorous and students are unlikely to be accepted without any experience. While LaGuardia looks for raw talent, they want to see some experience as well. If accepted, each studio requires 3 hours a day of study on that particular concentration.**

**Is it possible to get into a specialized high school and NOT get into a regular high school? Yes! Once again, Specialized High Schools ONLY use the results of the SHSAT whereas the non-specialized screened schools look at everything and if a student does not meet the criteria to those schools they applied, it is possible they will not be accepted. Therefore, your child can be an excellent test taker and get into a Specialized High School but not a great student and not be accepted into the more competitive screened schools.**

**If I list only a few schools, doesn't that increase the chances of my getting into one of those schools? No. Listing only a few schools is a dangerous and risky route. Should a student not get accepted to those few schools listed, they would then enter the 2nd round which isn't ideal.**

**Do I have to list a school on my application in order to be eligible to appeal to that school later on? Yes. A school would need to have originally ranked you somewhere on the list, whether it was high or low, in order for them to be able to consider you in the appeals round.**

**Who is responsible for creating a portfolio for those schools that request one? The student! Teachers are however willing to help and assist in choosing a piece to add to their portfolio - this being said, an appointment would have to be made ahead of time.**

**What is the Computer School's policy around letters of recommendation? This information is in the handbook, however, the school's policy is such that the student is responsible for requesting a letter of recommendation no less than 2 weeks in advance of the due date. Also important to note - a teacher can deny a request should the schools listed on the student's application not require a letter be written for admission.**

**Will the school counselors keep track of my child's auditions, interviews, school tours, and portfolio submission dates? The counselors do not keep track of any student's auditions, interviews, school tours, or portfolio needs. It is up to the parents/guardians and students themselves to keep track of this very important and vital information. Having a calendar with these important dates is essential.**

**How will I know when the auditions are and what to bring? It's important to visit the website of each school that the student is auditioning for as well as refer to those school's pages in the high school directory.**

**How will I know what a school requires for admission? Please refer to the directory of NYC Public High Schools and the high school's website.**

**Thank you, and good luck!**

The Counseling Team