



The Parents' Alliance for Citywide Education (PACE), is a coalition of parents from New York City's Citywide gifted and talented (G&T) schools: The Anderson School on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, Brooklyn School of Inquiry, NEST+m on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, The 30th Avenue School (Q300) (grades K-4, 6-8 in 2017/18) in Queens, & TAG Young Scholars in East Harlem, Manhattan.

Citywide schools are communities of choice where families come together from all over the city in the name of excellence in public school education. Families make these ventures work by contributing their time, expertise, and resources to support teachers and children in the classroom. We have formed PACE to advocate collectively on behalf of Citywide schools and to enhance the education all of our children receive. PACE's activities include:

- Monitoring relevant education policy and issues,
- Educating elected officials and other community leaders,
- Advocating for existing and new Citywide G&T schools and programs, and
- Sharing experience, learning, and practices among parents at these schools.

## **PACE Activities on Behalf of G&T Education**

Over the past few years PACE has been working hard to provide information on G&T education and also to expand the reach of G&T education all over the city. The following are some highlights of our advocacy:

- PACE has met with DOE officials to encourage ideas such as expanded seats for G&T students and universal testing of children in public Pre-Kindergarten.
- We had a legislative breakfast with representatives from the NY City Council and state level representatives to present challenges faced by G&T education in NYC
- PACE continues to advocate for creating G&T sections where they are not provided; we are specifically advocating for a new Citywide G&T K-8 school in the Bronx.
- Related to our Bronx initiative, we co-sponsored two informational open houses in Fall 2014 and 2015 with the Bronx Borough President's office to provide information on G&T testing and facilitate parents registering their child to be tested.
- This spring we were invited to be part of a joint task force created by Bronx Borough President Diaz and Brooklyn Borough President Adams to study G&T issues in their boroughs. The task force has held two public hearings and will present its findings to the DOE in a few months.

## **... But More Needs to be Done**

Success. Citywide schools are thriving. Test scores are at the top of all NYC public schools, parent involvement is extraordinary, principal and teacher leadership is outstanding. As communities of choice that bring people together to support excellence in public education, these schools keep families in New York City and in public schools. They offer choice and they offer excellence.

More! Demand for seats in Citywide G&T elementary schools is overwhelming. This year some 1,609 children scored 97 or higher on the city's gifted and talented test, making them eligible for a Citywide seat, by city policy. 787 children scored 99. Meanwhile, there are just 300 kindergarten seats currently available in these schools. Sadly, this overcrowding crisis is less visible because Citywide schools are schools of choice and not neighborhood schools. We need to face up to the gap between the commitment to provide Citywide G&T education and the capacity currently available by considering thoughtful establishment of new Citywide G&T schools in selected areas of the city.

Finally, we need to make these schools an even better choice for more families. Parents, elected officials and the DOE can work together to achieve this by reducing class sizes, assuring secure space for these schools, addressing the transportation challenges facing both prospective and current families, and continually improving the admissions process.

### **What You Can Do**

Join us in calling for more schools and more support! Send your message to Chancellor Farina at this website: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ContactDOE/ChancellorMessage.htm> or by sending a letter via US Postal Mail to Chancellor Carmen Farina, 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007.

Please also contact your city council representative. You can find your representative's contact information by going to <http://council.nyc.gov/html/members/members.shtml> and entering your borough and address.