

Fall 2023 New York City Public Schools Admissions Outcomes

Across the board, more students and families received offers to their first-choice programs and schools for this fall. This was achieved through improvements made to the enrollment process:

- For the first time this year, Gifted and Talented programs were included on the Kindergarten application, and families received one single offer.
- More offers were extended to families who expressed interest in a school outside of their zone or district, based on seat availability.
- For fall 2023 admissions, the top-performing applicants from across each middle school and citywide were prioritized for admission to screened programs.

Accenture Report on NYCPS Birth through 5 System

In the spring of 2023, New York City Public Schools began working with Accenture to analyze the current state of supply and demand and forecast future trends for the NYCPS' early childhood programs. The executive summary of this report can be found [here](#).

Currently, the system has approx. 30,000 empty seats that are often not in the communities where demand is highest – resulting in some families being placed on a waitlist while other parts of the city have thousands of empty seats.

Since the beginning of this Administration and prior to this report, NYCPS moved over 4,000 seats based on the needs and preference of families informed by program and school leaders. This put seats and resources in position to have the greatest impact for families, increasing access to high-quality care and improving placements this Spring.

Findings

- **Pre-K enrollment** is expected to see a decrease of 4-5% in School Day/Year (SDY) programs, a decrease of 2-3% in Extended Day/Year (EDY) programs, and an increase of 5-10% in Head Start (HS) programs.
- **3K enrollment** is expected to see an increase of 15-18% in SDY programs, an increase of 1-2% in EDY programs, and a 5-10% increase in HS programs. Since 3K is a relatively new program and has been observing Year-over-Year (YoY) growth over the last 3 years, we expect the growth to continue and expand in terms of both number of applications and enrollments.
- **Infant & Toddler** enrollment is expected to increase by 10-20% because these programs recent prioritization as part of the reorganization of NYCPS' early childhood programs as birth-through-5 system, and will benefit from new program uptake similar to trends seen in both the Pre-K and 3K launches.

All	Current # Seats (Approx)	School Year	Enrollment Forecast Range
Pre-K	77,000	2024-25	53,500 - 55,900
3-K	53,000	2024-25	56,200 - 59,400
Infants & Toddlers	11,000	2024-25	9,000 - 12,000*
Total	140,000	2024-25	118,700 - 127,300

**Due to limited data for Infants/Toddlers seats, the confidence level in these projections is lower than other parts of the ECE system.*

Currently, the system has a birth through five-year-old capacity of approx. 140,000 seats.

The analysis points to the importance of matching forecasts to distribution based on ZIP codes. In areas where the number of seats significantly exceeds the forecast, there should be a redistribution of seats to better match forecasted demand in other areas. The report also highlights the need for an updated forecast once 2023-24 school year data becomes available. One additional identified need is the development of centralized data-collection procedures for Infant & Toddlers (IT) program data, which did not exist for years, to create broader, more thorough data for analysis and forecasting.

3K Admissions

On May 24th, approx. 42,000 children received a 3K offer for fall 2023 admissions. This represents an 8 percent increase in offers compared to the previous year.

Year-Over-Year Count of 3K Applications and Offers

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total Applicants	41,631	39,730	33,208	21,256	14,253
Total Offers	41,654	38,586	33,131	17,455	9,549

For families that submitted applications, overall outcomes were better than in 2022 admissions:

- 68% of applicants are receiving an offer to their first program choice, up five percentage points from last year.
- 86% of applicants are receiving an offer to any choice on their application, up two percentage points from last year

Percent of Families Who Received an Offer, By Choice

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Offer	96%	92%	92%	82%	67%
Any Choice From Application	86%	84%	81%	64%	55%
Top 3 Choices	82%	78%	76%	59%	50%
Top Choice	68%	63%	61%	46%	39%

Offers by Setting

	Seats	Offers	% of Seats Filled	Seats Available
District Schools	8,277	6,765	82%	1,512
Family Childcare Centers*	10,607	2,812	27%	7,795
LYFE	30	23	77%	7
NYC Early Education Centers	42,691	28,970	68%	13,721
Pre-K Centers	3,543	3,084	87%	459
Total	65,148	41,654	64%	23,494

*Family Childcare Centers primarily fill seats themselves via waitlists.

Pre-K Admissions

Approx. 61,000 children received offers to pre-K programs, marking a 3 percent increase in offers compared to the previous year. Additionally, 84 percent of applicants received an offer to their first program choice, a one percentage point increase from last year.

Year-Over-Year Count of Pre-K Applications and Offers

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total Applicants	53,577	50,187	51,605	59,018	64,435	66,756
Total Offers	60,787	58,762	57,511	61,789	65,522	66,756

96% of applicants are receiving an offer to any choice on their application, the same as last year.

Percent of Families Who Received an Offer, By Choice

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Top Choice	84%	83%	77%	77%	75%	75%
Top 3 Choices	94%	94%	91%	90%	88%	88%
Any Choice From Application	96%	96%	93%	93%	92%	92%

The remaining 4% of students did not receive an offer to an application choice but are on the waitlist for all programs on their application.

Offers by Setting

	Seats	Offers	% of Seats Filled	Seats Available
District Schools	30,941	22,276	72%	8,665
Pre-K Centers	7,420	4,492	61%	2,928
NYC Early Education Centers	50,715	34,019	67%	16,696
Total	89,076	60,787	68%	28,289

Kindergarten Admissions

Kindergarten admissions also saw a rise, with approximately 55,000 children set to receive offers, including those for Gifted and Talented programs. This includes an increase of 1,200 distinct applicants compared to 2022, with 82 percent of applicants receiving an offer to their first choice, and 98% receiving an offer to any choice on their application.

Kindergarten and Gifted and Talented Applications and Offers, by Admissions Year

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total Applicants	51,900	50,736	56,724	65,427	68,129
Total Offers	54,997	54,439	55,608	63,209	66,312

Note that for prior years students could have received a separate kindergarten and G&T offer. All above numbers represent distinct students.

Percent of Families Who Received an Offer, By Choice

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Top Choice	82%	79%	75%	71%	69%
Top 3 Choices	95%	91%	87%	85%	83%
Any Choice from Application	98%	95%	92%	91%	88

The increase seen above is in part because the Office of Student Enrollment extended more offers to families who expressed interest in a school outside of their zone or district listening carefully to family choice. Additionally, there were ~2,500 more seats (with the addition of G&T).

Middle School Admissions

In middle schools, approx. 62,000 6th graders are receiving offers this year, maintaining the numbers from last year.

The data shows that 74 percent of applicants received an offer to their first choice, and 92 percent received an offer to one of their top three choices. Students received offers a month earlier than last year.

	2023	2022	2021
Number of MS applicants	58,019	57,958	61,318
Number of offers to application choices	55,820	55,584	58,371
% of applicants who received an offer to an application choice	96%	96%	95%

~5,900 students will receive an auto-match, not an offer to an application choice, this year. Among the ~5,900, ~3,700 were non-applicants, meaning only ~2,200 public school applicants are receiving an auto-match. On average, these students tended to list fewer application choices (~98% of them listed 6 or fewer choices).

Middle School Screening Data

For fall 2023 admissions, students received a composite score based on the average of their final fourth-grade core course grades (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies).

	Fall 2023 Percent of Offers to Screened Programs	Fall 2020 Percent of Offers to Screened Programs
Asian	35%	21%
Black	17%	22%
Hispanic	24%	30%
White	18%	22%
Other	4%	5%
Private	1%	2%
FRL-eligible	60%	61%
Total	5,132	16,109

*Fall 2023 *screened* admissions methods included: Screened, Talent Test, Screened with Assessment

*Fall 2022 *screened* admissions methods included: Screened, Talent Test, Composite Score

High School Admissions

High school admissions saw approx 73,000 8th graders receiving offers this year, with 48 percent of applicants receiving an offer to their first choice, and 75 percent receiving an offer to one of their top three choices. Students received offers significantly earlier than the past two years, ensuring the offers were in the hands of parents before the independent school deposit deadline.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Number of HS applicants	71,059	71,138	74,354	76,008	75,885
Number of offers to application choices	67,430	67,055	69,956	71,940	71,589
% of applicants who received an offer to an application choice	95%	94%	94%	95%	94%

~5,800 students received an auto-match (they were matched with a school they did not apply to), compared to ~6,700 last year. Among the ~5,800, ~2,000 were non-applicants and ~460 were private school students, meaning only ~3,360 public school applicants are receiving an auto-match. On average, these students tended to list fewer application choices (~60% of them listed 6 or fewer choices).

Screened High Schools

For fall 2023 admissions, the top-performing applicants from across each middle school and citywide were prioritized for admission to screened programs.

Students fall into a screened admissions groups based on the average of their final seventh-grade core course grades (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies). This average must fall into the top percentage of students citywide or at a student’s school to fall within a certain admissions group.

Students were admitted to screened programs in group order, starting with students in group one.

Overall, the percentages of screened offers going to black and low-income students is slightly lower than last year, but slightly more racially representative of the city compared to fall 2021.

	Fall 2023 Percent of Offers to Screened Programs	Fall 2022 Percent of Offers to Screened Programs	Fall 2021 Percent of Offers to Screened Programs	Fall 2020 Percent of Offers to Screened Programs
Asian	25%	24%	28%	26%
Black	19%	20%	18%	19%
Hispanic	32%	32%	29%	27%
White	17%	17%	18%	19%
Other	3%	3%	3%	3%
Private	5%	4%	5%	6%
FRL-eligible	66%	68%	64%	60%
Total	19,521	20,126	20,206	21,920

Specialized High Schools

~26,000 8th graders took the SHSAT this year, and ~4,000 received an offer to a testing Specialized High School based on their exam score. An additional ~1,400 were invited to apply for Discovery and ~800 were approved to participate in the program.

See attached PDF.

2023 Admissions—SHSAT Offers by Ethnicity and School, Discovery Invitations by Ethnicity

Tester Summary	Native American	Asian	Black	Latinx	White	Multi-racial	Unknown	Total
Total Testers	257	8,309	4,895	6,797	4,515	463	679	25,915
Distribution of Testers, by Ethnicity	1.0%	32.1%	18.9%	26.2%	17.4%	1.8%	2.6%	100.0%

Offer Summary	Native American	Asian	Black	Latinx	White	Multi-racial	Unknown	Total
Brooklyn Technical High School (13K430)	14	729	37	97	429	39	75	1,420
High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College (HSMSE) (05N)	1	41	13	20	78	7	14	174
High School of American Studies at Lehman College (10X696)	0	20	2	20	51	8	14	115
Queens High School for the Sciences at York College (28Q687)	3	88	3	8	9	3	2	116
Staten Island Technical High School (31R605)	1	182	2	7	81	3	11	287
Stuyvesant High School (02M475)	1	487	7	20	158	36	51	760
The Bronx High School of Science (10X445)	2	422	34	44	157	28	44	731
The Brooklyn Latin School (14K449)	4	157	22	51	115	22	17	388
Total Offer	26	2,126	120	267	1,078	146	228	3,991
Distribution of Total SHSAT Offers, by Ethnicity	0.7%	53.3%	3.0%	6.7%	27.0%	3.7%	5.7%	100.0%

Discovery Summary	Native American	Asian	Black	Latinx	White	Multi-racial	Unknown	Total
Discovery Invitations*	9	669	165	263	222	19	8	1,355
Distribution of Discovery Invitations*	0.7%	49.4%	12.2%	19.4%	16.4%	1.4%	0.6%	100.0%