STATE OF NEW YORK

1415

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 14, 2019

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to admission to the specialized high schools in the city of New York

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 2590-h of the education law, as amended by chapter 345 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

(b) all specialized [~~senior~~] high schools. The [~~special~~] **specialized** high schools shall include the [~~present~~] schools known as[~~:~~]

The Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn Technical High School, Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music [~~and the Arts in the borough of Manhattan~~] **& Art and Performing Arts**, and such [~~further~~] **additional** schools [~~which the city board may designate~~] **as may be designated by the chancellor** from time to time. The [~~special~~] **specialized high** schools shall be permitted to maintain a discovery program in accordance with the law in effect on the date preceding the effective date of this section; **provided that the requirement that a student who is considered for the discovery program attend and pass a preparatory program administered by the specialized high school, demonstrating thereby his or her ability to successfully cope with the specialized high school program, shall refer to a program that can take place during the school year or the summer;** admissions to the [~~special~~] **specialized high** schools shall be conducted in accordance with [~~the law in effect on the date preceding the effective date of this~~] section **twenty-five hundred ninety-h-l of this article**;

§ 2. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 2590-h of the education law, as amended by chapter 720 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(b) all specialized [~~senior~~] high schools. The [~~special~~] specialized high schools shall include the [~~present~~] schools known as[~~:~~]

The Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn Technical High School, Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music [~~and the Arts in the borough of Manhattan~~] & Art and Performing Arts, and such [~~further~~] additional schools [~~which the city board may designate~~] as may be designated by the chancellor from time to time. The [~~special~~] specialized high schools shall be permitted to maintain a discovery program in accordance with the law in effect on the date preceding the effective date of this section; provided that the requirement that a student who is considered for the discovery program attend and pass a preparatory program administered by the specialized high school, demonstrating thereby his or her ability to successfully cope with the specialized high school program, shall refer to a program that can take place during the school year or the summer; admissions to the [~~special~~] specialized high schools shall be conducted in accordance with [~~the law in effect on the date preceding the effective date of this~~] section twenty-five hundred ninety-h-1 of this article;

§ 3. The education law is amended by adding a new section 2590-h-1 to read as follows:

§ 2590-h-1. Admissions to the specialized high schools. 1. Admissions to the specialized high schools shall be conducted in accordance with this section, provided that students may also be admitted to the specialized high schools for the two thousand twenty--two thousand twenty-one and the two thousand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two school years pursuant to the discovery program as set forth in section twenty-five hundred ninety-h of this article.

2. For the admissions process conducted during the two thousand nineteen--two thousand twenty school year to determine admissions to the specialized high schools for the two thousand twenty--two thousand twenty-one school year, students who meet the criteria set forth in this subdivision shall be offered admission to the specialized high schools in the following order:

(a) students attending public schools located in the city of New York who are in the top three percent of their eighth grade class, as calculated based on multiple measures of student achievement pursuant to subdivision five of this section, and who achieve a composite score above or at the cut-off composite score for the school such students have committed themselves to attend, pursuant to subdivision five of this section, provided that such students shall also rank in the top quarter of public school students in the eighth grade citywide based on such multiple measures of student achievement, and provided further that openings shall be reserved for such students at each specialized high school as set forth in subdivision seven of this section;

(b) students in the city of New York who take a competitive, objective and scholastic achievement examination in the eighth grade and achieve a score above or at the cut-off score for the openings that remain in the school for which such students have taken the examination; and

(c) students in the city of New York who take a competitive, objective and scholastic examination in the ninth grade and achieve a score above or at the cut-off score for the openings that remain in the school for which such students have taken the examination.

3. For the admissions process conducted during the two thousand twenty--two thousand twenty-one school year to determine admissions to the specialized high schools for the two thousand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two school year, students who meet the criteria set forth in this

subdivision shall be offered admission to the specialized high schools in the following order:

(a) students attending public schools located in the city of New York who are in the top five percent of their eighth grade class, as calculated based on multiple measures of student achievement pursuant to subdivision five of this section, and who achieve a composite score above or at the cut-off composite score for the school such students have committed themselves to attend pursuant to subdivision five of this section, provided that such students shall also rank in the top quarter of public school students in the eighth grade citywide based on such multiple measures of student achievement, and provided further that openings shall be reserved for such students at each specialized high school as set forth in subdivision seven of this section;

(b) students in the city of New York who take a competitive, objective and scholastic achievement examination in the eighth grade and achieve a score above or at the cut-off score for the openings that remain in the school for which such students have taken the examination; and

(c) students in the city of New York who take a competitive, objective and scholastic examination in the ninth grade and achieve a score above or at the cut-off score for the openings that remain in the school for which such students have taken the examination.

4. For the admissions process conducted during the two thousand twenty-one--two thousand twenty-two school year and subsequent school years to determine admissions to the specialized high schools for the two thousand twenty-two--two thousand twenty-three school year and subsequent school years, students who meet the criteria set forth in this subdivision shall be offered admission to the specialized high schools in the following order:

(a) students attending public schools located in the city of New York who are in the top five to seven percent of their eighth grade class, such percentage to be determined to allow openings to remain for admission pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subdivision and as calculated based on multiple measures of student achievement, determined as set forth in subdivision five of this section, and who achieve a composite score above or at the cut-off composite score for the school such students have committed themselves to attend, determined as set forth in subdivision five of this section, provided that such students shall also rank in the top quarter of public school students in the eighth grade citywide based on such multiple measures of student achievement, and provided further that openings shall be reserved for such students at each specialized high school as set forth in subdivision seven of this section; and

(b) students in the city of New York who have a minimum grade point average of 3.7, provided such students shall be admitted by a random selection process for the openings that remain in each school.

5. The chancellor shall determine the multiple measures of student achievement as referenced in this section, and the weight of each such measure, provided that such measures shall include academic course grades and standardized test scores. A description of such measures and the weight accorded to each shall be made publicly available, including on the website of the city school district. A student who is evaluated based on such measures for the purposes of this subdivision shall be assigned a composite score based on such weighted measures. Offers of admission to the specialized high schools pursuant to paragraphs (a) of subdivisions two through four of this section shall be determined by arranging the composite scores of all students who are assigned such

scores and who then commit themselves to attend a particular specialized high school in descending order from the highest score and counting down to the cut-off composite score, which shall be the composite score of the last student who receives an offer of admission to such school based on the number of openings available in such school pursuant to such paragraph.

6. Offers of admission to the specialized high schools pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (c) of subdivisions two and three of this section shall be determined by arranging the scores of all the candidates who took the competitive, objective and scholastic examination and who then commit themselves to attend a particular specialized high school in descending order from the highest score and counting down to the cut-off score, which shall be the score of the last candidate who receives an offer of admission to such school based on the number of openings available in such school.

7. The number of openings reserved at each specialized high school for students who meet the criteria set forth in paragraphs (a) of subdivisions two through four of this section shall be determined by multiplying: (a) the total number of ninth grade available openings at such school; by (b) the number of students who meet the criteria set forth in paragraphs (a) of subdivisions two through four of this section divided by the aggregate number of ninth grade available openings in all the specialized high schools.

8. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, admission to the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, and other schools of the arts that may be established pursuant to section twenty-five hundred ninety-h of this article, shall be determined by a student's demonstrated abilities in music or the arts as well as such student's scholastic achievement.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that the amendments to paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 2590-h of the education law made by section one of this act shall be subject to the expiration and reversion of such section pursuant to subdivision 12 of section 17 of chapter 345 of the laws of 2009, as amended when upon such date the provisions of section two of this act shall take effect.