



Assemblywoman Alicia L. Hyndman

EDUCATION UPDATE

FALL 2018

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Dear Neighbor,

The first day of school is right around the corner! As we gear up for the 2018-2019 academic year, I look forward to working with parents, educators, and community partners to ensure our students are equipped with the resources needed for a successful year.

During this past legislative session, I was appointed by Speaker Heastie to the Assembly Education Committee, the Higher Education Committee, and made Chair of the Subcommittee on Tuition Assistance Programs. Higher Education is necessary to succeed in today's economy, whether students enroll in traditional institutions or Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. These appointments allow me to address critical issues affecting our students while highlighting the rising student loan debt in New York State.

Navigating the education departments on the state or city level to find resources and programs can often be difficult. Therefore, throughout the school year, my office will be hosting a series of forums and workshops that will bring resources to parents and students. Whether your child is entering school, dealing with an IEP (Individualized Education Plan), going off to college or a training program, my office will be there to support every step of the way.

I will continue to monitor our schools during this academic year to assess what improvements need to be made. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by or contact my office at 718-723-5412.

Yours in Service,

*Alicia Hyndman
Assemblywoman 29th District*

Investing in our Children

This year the New York State Assembly passed one of the highest ever school aid budgets. By investing in our schools, we invest in our students who will develop stronger skills needed to compete for opportunities nationwide. Some of the key allotments include:

- \$18.8 million in ongoing funding for My Brother's Keeper programs. During my first session, I helped advocate for this initiative, making it the first of its kind in the nation. It seeks to improve outcomes for boys and young men of color by focusing on family and community engagement; professional development; the expansion and development of exemplary school practices and models; and addresses issues related to restorative justice and racial disparities in education.
- \$15 million to expand universal prekindergarten instruction for 3,000 children between the ages of 3 and 4 statewide.
- \$9 million allocated to create 15 new early college high school programs, targeting communities with low graduation or college access rates. These programs will allow students to graduate high school with tangible skills they can utilize in the workforce.



I had the pleasure of attending a number of graduations throughout the District. This is an exciting time for students and their loved ones, as it signifies the devotion and energy they have invested in their future.

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Education in th



CDEC29Q Goes to Washington, D.C.

The winners of CDEC29Q's History Fair won a trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. I was happy to allocate funding to reward our students and give them an unforgettable experience.



UFT Book Giveaway

My colleagues in government and I partnered with United Federation of Teachers to bring 40,000 books to our community. Reading is fundamental for academic success and we were thrilled to bring these resources to our students.



Higher Education Action Day

I met with young scholars from the Ernesto Malave Leadership Academy, who discussed their concerns with the CUNY system and ways we can improve it. It is great to see our young people so invested in their education and making strides toward their future.



CUNY Queens College

The Queens Delegation welcomed Queens College President, Felix Matos Rodriguez to the Capitol and discussed issues around higher education. He has always been an amazing partner in creating pathways for our students to enter higher education.

Diversity in Specialized High Schools

This year we began an important conversation on how to improve access to and increase diversity in our specialized high schools. My offices received thousands of e-mails and hundreds of calls opposing bill A10427, which aims to phase out the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT). Though I do not agree with this bill in its entirety, I made a tough decision to vote it out of the Education Committee. I believed it was imperative we initiated dialogue on the lacking diversity in our elite high schools. Below is an excerpt from my published disposition discussing the Mayor's bill and the inequities in our community.

"The Tale of Two School Districts"

...Today, over 60 years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, New York schools still remain separate and arguably unequal. Despite the vast amount of cultural capital that this city has, according to a policy brief published by NYU Steinhardt "in 2013, for example, at the three largest specialized high schools, 57 percent of incoming 9th graders were male, 64 percent were Asian, and 22 percent were White, while just 4 percent were Black and 5 percent Latino. By comparison, incoming 9th graders citywide were 51 percent male, 17 percent Asian, 13 percent White, 28 percent Black, and 40 percent Latino." This year only 10 percent of students admitted were Black and Latino even though they make up over 67 percent of the population of students. City-and-State reports that "At Stuyvesant High School, the most selective of the eight schools, 10 students offered admission this fall were Black and 27 were Latino out of 801 students total offered admission." At another school Brooklyn Tech, which is the largest specialized high school, in 2018 of the offers given out 935 were Asian, 567 were white, 137 were Latino and 87 were Black. But, under the Mayor's plan we have an opportunity to reverse the effects of that injustice by expanding opportunity for a more diverse group of New Yorkers to attend Specialized High School.

the 29th District



College Informational Session

Representatives from CUNY, SUNY, NYS HESC, CICU, and CASONY spoke with parents and students about college admissions, financial planning, grants, and much more.



STEM Winter Camp

My office partnered with P.S.38Q for the third year of our Winter STEM Camp. Over the course of two days, students conducted science experiments, engaged in physical activities, and went on a field trip.



Story Time

To encourage our children to read this summer, I partnered with PBS and Queens Library to have Super Why and Princess Presto join us for Story Time. It was a lot of fun to read together and interact with the characters.



UFT Parent Leadership Series

I spoke with parents about the importance of being involved in their child's education. I encouraged them to join their Community District Education Councils, attend PTA meetings and build relationships with community partners. By investing our time in their lives, our children will be prepared for success.

lized High Schools

...The Mayor has a two-step approach: 1) Phasing out the Specialized High School Exam and taking the top 7% of students in all of the public middle schools in the city (with a small percentage allowed for private schools) 2) offering 20 percent of seats in each specialized school to low-income students who missed the test cutoff by a few points after they attend the Discovery Program, a summer-school session.

...While many of the Mayor's supporters have rightfully been upset with the slow progress in ending the "Tail of Two Cities" that has plagued our city - today they can applaud him for proposing a new plan to desegregate and innovate with diversifying our Specialized High Schools. This isn't simply a matter of Black, White, Latino or Asian - I support all students getting a quality education. But for too long in our city education has become a privilege and not a right! It is a bigger problem of systemic injustice through decades of the closing of schools, discriminatory housing policy, and economic policies that disfavor the poor - students of all races in this city have been put at a disadvantage. We know that historically students of color, low-income students, have fared worse on a standardized test. It is not because their parents care less or that they are not able to learn - but a bigger conversation about why a zip code or a school district determines your success. We want all kids to succeed - but educational equity is needed. Both policy-wise and practically we cannot just exclude students from these schools because they missed a test by a few marks. We must also look at other factors like income, neighborhood, extracurricular activities, overall GPA - we are not lowering standards but we are not reducing them to a single exam. Similar to some of the most elite Universities and Graduate Schools in the country we are saying that we need a progressive comprehensive approach to admissions that does not use just a single exam. We are better than that and our students deserve diversity and a chance to compete...

To read the full piece, visit my website at <http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Alicia-Hyndman/story/82217>

Gifted & Talented Program Coming to Southeast Queens

Prior to taking office, one of my goals for this community was to bring more programs to our schools. I am excited to announce this fall, the Gifted and Talented program will begin at the Jean Nuzzi Intermediate School I.S.109. There will be a total of 25 seats for general education applicants and five for students with disabilities.

As the job market is becoming increasingly competitive, equipping our young people with the education needed to enter the global economy is now more important than ever. With an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM), this Gifted and Talented program will allow our children to thrive and excel in their studies; building an academic foundation needed for tomorrow.

This is another step towards fundamentally improving our schools in District 29. I look forward to working with parents, educators, and community members to continue bringing resources to our community.



Investing in our Children (continued)

In addition to the overall budget, I received grants and funding for local educational programs and institutes in my district.

- The United Black Men of Queens (UBMQ) was awarded the OCFS Human Services Program Grant for \$25,000. UBMQ is a longstanding mentorship program in the community. Through their emphasis on education, they empower young men of color to believe in self and

service to their community.

- I secured \$100,000 for Eagle Academy for Young Men III, which is closing the graduation rates for boys of color in my district. The Eagle model is focused on the core factor in the achievement gap, and tailors its curriculum to help Black and Latino boys overcome the challenges they face every day – whether at home, in school or their communities.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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**Alicia L.
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Education Update

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