

New York City's Community School District 3 (CSD 3) is one of the most racially and economically diverse districts in the nation's largest school system, yet is also one of the most segregated and unequal. Although our district's public school population averages approximately 66% students of color, many of our elementary schools do not reflect this reality.

Analysis of enrollment patterns and student demographics reveals that our schools are segregated by race and class, and that one of the drivers of this division is that elementary school admissions continue to be based largely on geographic zones that perpetuate economic isolation.

For many years, the Center for Immigrant Families (CIF, now the Parent Leadership Project) challenged inequitable admissions and segregated and unequal schools. CIF documented the stories of over 300 low-income parents of color and identified disparate treatment and mechanisms of exclusion at work in CSD3.

In 2012, PLP joined forces with educational leaders in CSD 3 to spearhead a district-wide task force to examine the inequality in CSD 3 schools. The task force includes educators, community leaders, parents, and education activists with the common goal of furthering equitable access for all students to all schools in our district. The task force has come to a consensus on a framework for creating a fair and equitable admissions policy in CSD 3. In this document, we outline the problem in detail and propose a pilot project for achieving equity in CSD 3. The proposed pilot project is rooted in a community Controlled Choice admissions plan that will ensure that all our public schools reflect, respect, and serve the entire district's families.

Sincerely,

Ujju Aggarwal, Teresa Arboleda, Donna Nevel, Yasmin Secada, Lizabeth Sostre
District 3 Equity in Education Task Force Steering Committee

For more information, please contact: parentleadershipproject@gmail.com