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1971  
CHAPTER 1212

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55 PAGES

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EDUCATION LAW

**Establishment and Maintenance of Special High Schools in New York City  
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CHAPTER 1212

Cal. No. 1236

*Legislate*  
*Reprint* 30,052

A-7005A  
Res. 1087

1971-1972 Regular Sessions

# IN SENATE

March 2, 1971

Assembly bill No. 7005-A introduced by Mr. HECHT—Multi-Sponsored by—Messrs. STEINGUT, Miss GUNNING, MONDELLO, CHANANAU, MARGORELLA, LERNER, HOCHBERG, H. A. POBNER, H. J. MILLER, ROPELL, DICARLO, STRELZIN, SCHMIDT, BATTISTA, M. H. MILLER, GALLAGHER, KOPPEL, SHAROFF, RICCIO, RUSSO, DIFALCO, FLACK, SOLARZ, COOPERMAN, GOLD, MIRTO, STAVISKY, FINK, CALABRETTA, KUNZEMAN, KELLY, LOPRESTO, AMANN, SPELLA, SIMON, VERDERAME, STEIN, LAMA, SILVERMAN, CINCOTTA, GRIECO, WALSH—read twice and referred to the Committee on City of New York—substituted for Senate bill No. 5638-A—ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted retaining its place in the order of third reading

## AN ACT

To amend the education law, in relation to the establishment and maintenance of special high schools in the city of New York

Compared by \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

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|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| Rec.....    | 1087   |
| A. No. .... | 7005-A |
| Reprint     |        |
| ✓ No. ....  | 30,052 |
| Cal.No.     |        |
| Page.....   | 1236   |

# In Senate

.....19..21..

Passed with the following amendments:

By Messrs. Calandra, Bernstein, Bloom, Bookson, Bronston, Conklin, Ferraro, Goldin, Goodman, Knorr, Lentol, Lewis, Marchi, Giordano To amend Senate Bill No. 5668-A, as follows:-

By Mr. Hecht - Multi-Sponsored by Messrs. Steingut, Miss Gunning, Mondello, Chananau, Mercorella, Lerner, Hochberg, H.A. Posner, H. J. Miller, Rodell, DiCarlo, Strelzin, Schmidt, Battista, M. W. Miller, Gallagher, Koppell, Sharoff, Riccio, Russo, DiFalco, Flack, Solarz, Cooperman, Gold, Mirto, Stavisky, Fink, Calabretta, Kunzeman, Kelly, Lopresto, Amann, Stella, Simon, Verderame, Stein, Lama, Silverman, Cincotta, Grieco, Walsh

To amend Assembly Bill No. 7005-A, as follows:

- Page 3, line 22 - after "satisfactory." delete remainder of line
- " 23 - delete entire line
- " 24 - delete entire line
- " 25 - delete entire line
- " 26 - delete entire line
- Page 3, between lines 26 and 27 insert § 2. This act shall not be considered as a limitation on the development of comprehensive high schools in all school districts.
- Page 3, line 27 - strike out "2" and insert 3

By order of the Senate,

Secretary.

Multiple memorandum received from the  
State Comptroller dated                       
stating the following bill is of  
"No Interest" to the Department of  
Audit and Control..

Intro. No.

A-7005-A

Print No.

The original memorandum filed with:

A-857

Chas.  
12/2

Multiple memorandum received from the  
State Comptroller dated 6-2-71  
stating the following bill is of  
"No Interest" to the Department of  
Audit and Control.

Intro. No.

Print No.

A 7005-A

The original memorandum filed with:

A-3875-A



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

11 7005-A

BURTON G. HECHT  
631P ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
BRONX COUNTY  
80 EAST 42ND STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017  
YURON B-4733 - 4734

June 4, 1971

Honorable Michael Whiteman  
Counsel to the Governor  
Executive Chambers  
The Capitol  
Albany, New York

Re: Senate Reprint 30,052, Amending A. 7005-A

Dear Mr. Whiteman:

Enclosed please find memorandum in support of the above bill which is commonly known as the Calandra-Hecht bill to save the specialized high schools in the City of New York.

When the bill was debated in the Assembly there was considerable objection by Black and Puerto Rican Assemblymen concerning a clause in the bill limiting the Discovery Program in these schools to fourteen per cent of the students who were accepted under the regular procedure.

After the bill passed the Assembly, Senator Calandra and I conferred with the Black and Puerto Rican members of the Assembly and the Senate and we agreed to amend the bill to eliminate the fourteen per cent limit in the Discovery Program.

The bill was amended in the Senate and this controversial clause was removed thereby continuing the discretion of the Board of Education with regard to the number of students who can be admitted under the Discovery Program.

After the bill was amended the Black and Puerto Rican Assemblymen withdrew their objections to the bill. The bill then passed the Senate by a vote of 49 to 3 and was returned to the Assembly for its consideration of the amended bill.

The bill passed the Assembly without debate by a vote of 142 to 5. In fact Assemblyman Ramos and Assemblyman Wright, who are two of the leading spokesmen of the Puerto Rican and Black legislators set forth to the entire body that they approved the bill and congratulated me and the other co-sponsors for eliminating the controversial clause in the bill. They further stated that they support the continuance of the specialized high schools in the City of New York.

Honorable Michael Whiteman

-2-

June 4, 1971

It is respectfully requested that the Governor sign  
this bill into law.

Respectfully submitted,



BURTON G. HECHT  
Member of Assembly

BGH:sk  
Encs.





THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

BURTON G. HECHT  
83ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
BRONX COUNTY  
80 EAST 43RD STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017  
TELEPHONE 8-4733 - 4734

June 4, 1971

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF SENATE REPRINT 30,052 AMENDING  
ASSEMBLY BILL A. 7005-A

The purpose of this bill is to preserve and save the four specialized high schools in the City of New York. The four schools involved are the Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn Technical High School and the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and the Arts.

Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School and Brooklyn Technical High School were established many years ago for the special purpose of encouraging and developing students who were interested and talented in science and mathematics. The Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and the Arts was created for the special purpose of encouraging and developing students who were interested and talented in music and art.

The history of the United States and the world during the past thirty years has dramatized the role of science and mathematics in every field of human endeavor and have underlined the need to develop the nation's resources of talent in all areas, but particularly in the fields of science and mathematics. With this in view, the Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School and Brooklyn Technical High School offer special curriculum opportunities, special facilities and special guidance counseling to develop science and mathematics talent to its potential. The same opportunities are offered in the fields of music and art at the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and the Arts.

The experience of these schools has shown that when students with a favorable initial disposition towards science, mathematics, music and art are exposed to the rich programs in these areas, large numbers of them are motivated to make their careers in these fields. At the same time, the educational programs of these schools are sufficiently broad to avoid narrow specialization and to enable those who complete it to become well rounded human beings.

The bill mandates into the law the four specialized high schools and any other specialized high schools which the Board of Education may designate from time to time. The bill further

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mandates competitive, objective and scholastic achievement examinations as the basis for admission to the Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School and Brooklyn Technical High School. Candidates for admission to the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and the Arts are required to pass competitive examinations in music and/or the arts. In addition, the bill includes the Discovery Program presently in existence whereby disadvantaged students are admitted each year. These students, in order to qualify for the Discovery Program, must take the regular competitive entrance examination and score below the cut-off point for regular admission, must be certified by their local school as being disadvantaged, must be recommended by their local school as having high potential for the special high school program and must attend and pass a summer preparatory program administered by the special high school involved. (These are the procedures created by the Board of Education presently in existence with regard to each of the four specialized high schools.)

At the present time entrance examinations to each of the schools are open to any child in the City of New York in either the eighth or ninth year of study attending a public, parochial or private school. The competitive, scholastic examinations are prepared by a reputable professional testing service, the Columbia Testing Service of the Teachers College at Columbia University. The examination is marked by machine and the results forwarded to the individual schools. Candidates for admission are judged on the basis of their scores on the admission test. The cut-off point on the examination is determined solely by counting down from the top score to the number of candidates who will be admitted. Ethnic and religious backgrounds have nothing to do with admission to these schools. In fact there is no way for any of the schools to know the ethnic, racial or religious background of any of its applicants since no candidate is interviewed prior to acceptance and no such information appears on the application. The Fiorello H. LaGuardia School of Music and the Arts conducts their own examinations with regard to acceptance based upon talent in music and/or the arts.

This bill will not prevent the Board of Education from changing the organization retained to prepare the examinations nor would it prevent the Board from changing the type of examination given or the contents of same, but said examination must be a competitive, objective, scholastic achievement examination.

The bill does not limit the number of students admitted under the Discovery Program. This is left to the discretion of the Board of Education.

During the past ten or fifteen years there have been a number of threats made by political pressure groups to the continued existence of the four specialized high schools. Appearing frequently in the guise of something completely different, these continuous attacks have been the cause for deep and aroused concern of parents, students, faculty, alumni and all those who believe in educational excellence. These repeated attacks have diverted countless hours and enormous energy of the people associated with the specialized high

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schools whose apparent "crime" appears to have been the excellent education they have provided for thousands of youngsters in this City, without discrimination, save the one based on demonstrated capacity to use effectively the broad programs available in the four specialized high schools.

The High School Division of the Board of Education has conducted numerous investigations with regard to these unfounded attacks made against the specialized high schools. They have always given these four schools a clean bill of health.

Recently another baseless and reckless attack was made by a superintendent of a local school district in the City of New York. Although Chancellor Scribner refuted each and every charge made, in a letter to the source of the attack, he still saw fit to place another cloud over the heads of the specialized high schools by appointing a committee to investigate the schools and their admission procedures. In fact the Chancellor went so far as to hold up acceptance letters to students who passed the examinations for admission to the September 1971 term. After a hue and cry was raised in opposition to the Chancellor's actions, he relented and permitted the letters of acceptance to be sent out. As a result, the continued threat to the four specialized high schools remains, and the Chancellor has been unmoved by any evidence save his own limited experience with these schools whose principals have not been consulted by him at any point in this process.

It is the opinion of the sponsors of this bill that the political pressure groups who continue to attack the four specialized high schools intend to eventually destroy these schools and their specialized status in science, mathematics, music and art. The Chancellor is being used by these groups as a tool in their eventual goal of destruction.

The sole purpose of this legislation is to preserve these specialized high schools where excellence is the criteria. As other academic high schools and colleges move in the direction of more generalized education, the need for specialized high schools that provide a thorough grounding in mathematics, science, music and art for our future scientists, mathematicians, musicians and artists becomes more acute than ever. These highly successful schools should not therefore be tampered with, but should be permitted to continue their outstanding work in developing the science, mathematical and artistic talents of the young people who are interested in these vital areas. It is imperative that this bill be enacted into law for the continued existence of these schools.

This bill, which overwhelmingly passed both houses of the State Legislature, is supported by the following organizations:

1. The non-partisan "Citizens Union".
2. The principals of the Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn Technical High School, and the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and the Arts. (Letters and memoranda in support of this bill by each of the said principals are attached hereto.)



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3. The "New York Daily News". (Editorial attached hereto)
4. WCBS - Radio. (Editorial attached hereto)
5. The Parents' Association of each of the four specialized high schools representing approximately 17,000 students and their parents.
6. Twenty-three New York City Councilmen who have signed a Resolution requesting the Legislature to pass this bill and the Governor to sign same into law. (Copy of Resolution attached hereto.)

The bill is co-sponsored by fifty-seven members of the New York State Senate and Assembly, Republicans and Democrats, evidencing a bi-partisan support for same.

It is respectfully requested that the Governor sign this bill into law.

Respectfully submitted,



BURTON G. HECHT  
Member of Assembly

BGH:sk  
Encs.

# The Bronx High School of Science

76 WEST 205TH STREET

BRONX, N. Y. 10468

DR. ALEXANDER TAFFEL  
PRINCIPAL

ADM. ASST'S

MR. A. BREINAN  
MR. S. MANSON

TELEPHONE  
285-0200

May 26, 1971

Hon. Nelson A. Rockefeller  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York

Dear Governor Rockefeller:

I am urgently requesting your approval of the Calandra-Hocht Bill #S30-552 amending S7005A. This bill mandates the present system of admissions to the Bronx High School of Science and the other specialized high schools based upon open competitive, objective examinations. It also continues the Discovery Program established at Science, Stuyvesant, and Brooklyn Technical High School which extends a special opportunity for admission to disadvantaged students of demonstrated high potential.

In the twelve years I have been principal of the Bronx High School of Science, the threats against its continuance as a specialized high school have never ceased. In spite of the school's remarkable record, in spite of its hard won nationwide and worldwide reputation for excellence, in spite of the fact that it has been considered worthy of imitation in the U.S.S.R, in Turkey, in the Philippines and in other countries, our own Boards of Education have from time to time made moves that would effectively have destroyed the school by converting it into a regular or comprehensive high school. Only a month ago, another attack was launched against the school, this time via the false charge that its admissions program is discriminatory. Although Chancellor Scribner refuted this latest charge, he nevertheless saw fit to launch still another investigation of the specialized high schools. Once again the school lives under a cloud and must divert its creative energies to meet this new challenge instead of devoting them to the further improvement of its educational program.

The time has come to put an end to the perennial war of nerves. That is the purpose of the Calandra-Hocht Bill. That is why I am asking you to sign this bill.

Yours sincerely,

*Alexander Taffel*

Alexander Taffel  
Principal

AT:EW

*The Bronx High School of Science*

75 WEST 205TH STREET

BRONX, N. Y. 10468

DR. ALEXANDER TAPPEL  
PRINCIPAL

ADM. ASSOYS  
MR. A. BREINAN  
MR. D. MANSON

TELEPHONE  
266-0800

MEMORANDUM ON WHY THE CALANDRA-HECHT BILL SHOULD BE SIGNED BY  
GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER

1. Despite the outstanding record and international reknown of the Bronx High School of Science, efforts to change its character and its standards have continued through the years and are even now in progress.
2. An admissions program that selects students solely on their demonstrated ability to do well in the spacialized high school level program of the specialized high schools is essential to the life of these schools. The present admissions program has successfully selected students for more than 20 years and has demonstrated its validity by selecting students year after year who succeed in fulfilling the objectives for which the school was founded. It is also a procedure that guarantees fairness and equal consideration to each and every candidate who applies.
3. As the other academic high schools and the colleges move in the direction of more generalized education, the need for a specialized high school that provides a thorough grounding in mathematics and science for our future scientists and mathematicians becomes more acute than ever. These highly successful schools should not therefore be tampered with but should be permitted to continue their outstanding work in developing the science and mathematics talents of these young people who are interested in those vocational areas.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
BROOKLYN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL  
TWENTY-NINE FORT GREENE PLACE, BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11217  
ISIDOR AUERBACH, PRINCIPAL  
TELEPHONE: BR5-5150

May 26, 1971

Governor Nelson Rockefeller  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York

Dear Governor:

I respectfully urge you to sign into law the Calandra-Hecht Bill, S-30-052, amending S-7005-A. This would assure the continuation of the outstanding specialized high schools, including ours, in New York City. They provide opportunities for quality education for all gifted children, including those who are disadvantaged. Our graduates for the last fifty years have contributed meritorious services to industry, government, and university life in our city, state, and nation.

In anticipation of your approval of the Calandra-Hecht Bill, I extend to you the sincerest gratitude of the students, faculty, parents, alumni of our school, and community.

Very respectfully yours,



Louis Weiss  
Acting Principal

LW:mn

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
BROOKLYN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL  
TWENTY-NINE FORT GREENE PLACE, BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11217  
ISIDOR AUERBACH, PRINCIPAL  
TELEPHONE: 886-8100

June 1, 1971

Some Facts About Brooklyn Technical High School

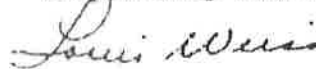
1. It is the only high school of its kind in New York City and its reputation is worldwide. It offers courses in various phases of technology: Chemical, Electrical, Electronics, Structural, Aeronautical, and Mechanical Engineering, Industrial Design, and Architecture. It is anticipated that the student enrollment in September 1971 will be approximately 6,000.
2. This school was founded almost fifty years ago and admission has always been on the basis of an entrance examination. Its alumni occupy prominent positions in government, industry, and universities.
3. The entrance examination is prepared by Columbia Testing Service and graded by them. The faculty, students, alumni, and parents of this school are overwhelmingly in favor of retaining admission via a competitive examination. Increasing numbers of disadvantaged children, Black, Puerto Rican, and Oriental are being admitted each year, mainly through their success in the entrance examination. They now number nearly 25% of the total student body.
4. Some students enter the school through the Discovery Program. Those disadvantaged students who do not quite pass the entrance examination, but who are highly recommended by their current schools, are selected for a summer of remedial work and further evaluation. In previous years they numbered approximately 5% of the entering class. This September, 1971, we anticipate a larger group, approximately 275 or 13% of the incoming students. A larger class is being admitted in order to increase the utilization of our edifice. Many of the 275 students would not be able to survive in our school without the remedial work of the Discovery Program.



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5. The signing of the Calandra-Hecht Bill into law is essential for the survival of this school and the maintenance of its high quality of education. Every few years we face threats from local officials and self-appointed critics. Too much time and energy must then be spent by the Principal and the staff in counteracting.
6. Attacks against the specialized high schools invariably get much attention in the news media. This tends to drive more middle class out of the city and many gifted children into parochial and private high schools. This year only 30% of those who attend parochial schools and have passed our examination, have actually committed themselves to enrollment in September, 1971. Only if our future is assured by State law can we convince parents that the school will be maintained.

Respectfully submitted,



Louis Weiss  
Acting Principal

NEW YORK'S FIRST SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1884

# STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL

345 EAST 15TH STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10008

LEONARD J. FLIEDNER, PRINCIPAL

ORSON 2-0080

Dear Legislator,

I urge your support of the Callandra - Hecht Bill,  
A 7005 S 5668 now before you for consideration.

The bill will insure the continuation of the high degree of excellence of our school and the other specialized high schools in the city. Further, it would eliminate the perennial "sword of Damocles" that hangs above the head of these fine schools which afford all the students of our city the opportunity of a fine education based on an objective examination.

I would appreciate your support in maintaining academic excellence in New York City.

Very truly yours,

  
Gaspar R. Fabbriante  
Acting Principal

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**THE HIGH SCHOOL OF  
MUSIC AND ART**

A DIVISION OF THE FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA HIGH SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS

135 STREET AT CONVENT AVENUE • NEW YORK 10031

RICHARD A. KLEIN, PRINCIPAL      PHONE: 926-0870

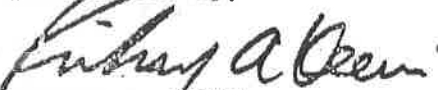
Dear Legislator:

As Principal of the LaGuardia High School of Music and the Arts (High School of Music and Art and School of Performing Arts) I feel that I must impart to you my feelings concerning the Calandra-Hecht bill (A-7005 and S-5668) which is designed to protect the integrity of the four specialized academic high schools of New York City.

Over the years our schools have earned a reputation for excellence while meeting the specific needs of gifted and talented youngsters of every racial and ethnic origin and from every neighborhood in the City. This legislation would insure that we be allowed to continue to serve the community of New York with integrity, free from threat or intimidation.

The special programs we offer are challenging and demanding. In order to profit from such a program a youngster must demonstrate some potential and achievement in addition to the interest and desire to attend which all of our applicants possess. I believe the Calandra-Hecht bill will guarantee that we be allowed to continue to admit candidates strictly on the basis of their ability to profit from our special courses as determined by our entrance examination and I urge your support.

Yours sincerely,



RICHARD A. KLEIN  
Principal

RAK:dc

DAILY NEWS, MONDAY, MAY 24, 1971

**DAILY NEWS**  
220 East 42d St. NEW YORK'S PICTorial NEWSPAPER (212) MU 2-1234

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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all the local news printed in this newspaper as well as all AP news dispatches.

**KEEP THOSE STANDARDS HIGH**

The State Assembly has approved overwhelmingly a bill that would prohibit New York City from tampering with the admissions requirements for its four top-grade schools—Bronx Science, Brooklyn Tech, Stuyvesant and the High School of Music and Art.



Hecht Calandra

Entrance to these schools is now, and for years past has been, governed almost entirely by competitive exams.

The current legislation co-authored by Assemblyman Burton Hecht (D-L-Bronx) and State

Sen. John Calandra (R-Bronx) would continue this policy in the face of charges that it constitutes something called "cultural bias" against minority students.

It is true that blacks and Puerto Ricans make up a small percentage of the student bodies in Bronx Science, et al. That fact is less an indictment of them and the tough standards for admission than a sad commentary on the general level of education in the city's schools.

City educators should address themselves to system-wide improvements that would better prepare those now considered disadvantaged for the demanding, but objective, quizzes required to earn a place in our four elite schools.

Just in case said educators are unwilling or unable to resist pressures for diluting these requirements, let's put the Hecht-Calandra Bill on the books.

WCBS NEWSRADIO 88

51 WEST 52 STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019  
PHONE (212) 765-4321/CBS OWNED

# EDITORIAL

This is one of a continuing series of WCBS Radio editorials on topics of vital interest to the community. Responsible representatives of opposing viewpoints are given the opportunity to reply on the air. If you missed the broadcast of this editorial, we hope you will read it. Your comments are always most welcome.

Joseph T. Dembo, Vice President, CBS Radio Division  
General Manager, WCBS Radio

SUBJECT: High Schools - II  
71-51

BROADCAST: May 9, 1971, 12:20,  
3:20, 8:20, 11:20 p.m.  
May 10, 1971, 5:20, 8:20 a.m.

About two months ago, we supported the retention of entrance requirements at the four specialized high schools in New York City.

We pointed out that these specialized schools--Bronx High School of Science, the High School of Music and Art, Stuyvesant and Brooklyn Technical--were established to develop already demonstrated talents.

Now, Assemblyman Burton Hecht and State Senator John Calandra have introduced legislation in Albany which would mandate into law the preservation of the four schools, plus any other high schools which the Board of Education may designate from time to time.

WCBS RADIO urges the swift passage of the Hecht-Calandra bill.

The bill says, in effect, that competitive, objective and scholastic entrance examinations must be the basis for admission. And it endorses the so-called "discovery program" in the four high schools, giving disadvantaged students of demonstrated high potential a chance to attend each year.



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The Hecht-Calandra bill insures that these schools will continue their good work, without the shadow of political pressures.

-WCBS RADIO-

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71-51

RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW YORK STATE  
LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO  
ENACT INTO LAW A BILL MANDATING THAT  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY  
OF NEW YORK CONTINUE THE OPERATION  
OF ITS FOUR SPECIALIZED HIGH SCHOOLS  
WITH ADMISSIONS BASED UPON MERIT.

by Messrs. <sup>Culte,</sup> Gelfand, Merola, DeMarco, Mrs. Ryan,  
Mrs. Stromberg, Troy, Ribustello, Mrs. Greitzer,  
Burden, Friedland, Postel, Manton, Sadowsky, Manes,  
Ward, Scholnick, Arculeo, Silverman, Golden, Mrs. Lerner  
and Haber, ~~SALMAN~~.

WHEREAS, the Bronx High School of Science,  
High School of Music and Art, Stuyvesant High School,  
and Brooklyn Technical High School have outstanding  
educational records, and

WHEREAS, these institutions provide critically  
needed programs for the fullest development of the  
gifted child, and

WHEREAS, there is an obligation to provide  
the fullest education opportunity to all children, and

WHEREAS, the special programs for gifted  
children will be dissipated should admissions cease to  
be on the basis of merit, and

WHEREAS, the commitment of the Board of  
Education for the retention of specialized high schools  
is uncertain, and

WHEREAS, their survival is critically dependent  
upon the mandate by state law, be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council urges the passage  
of the Calandra-Hecht <sup>(S. 5668, ASS. 7005)</sup> bill mandating continuation of such  
schools and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Council urges Governor  
Nelson Rockefeller to sign said bill into law ~~and~~ after  
its passage by the State Legislature.

*A July*



STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
ALBANY

LOUIS J. LEFKOWITZ  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE GOVERNOR

Re: Assembly 7005-A, Senate Reprint 30,052

The purpose of this bill is to provide a new provision under Art. 52 of the Education Law (which concerns the New York City Community School District System). This bill would amend Section 2590-g of the Education Law which deals with the powers and duties of the city board, to provide for the establishment and maintenance of special high schools in the City of New York.

The bill would become effective on January 1, 1972.

The bill provides that four existing high schools shall become Special High Schools and that admission thereto shall be by competitive, objective and scholastic achievement examination, which shall be open to every child without regard to the school district where they reside. The bill also provides for the establishment of a discovery program for disadvantaged students.

I find no legal objection to this bill.

Dated: JUN 10 1971

Respectfully submitted,

*Louis J. Lefkowitz*  
LOUIS J. LEFKOWITZ  
Attorney General





THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

June 14, 1971

A#7005-A - SRP: 30,052 - by Mr. Hecht

AN ACT To amend the education law, in relation to the establishment and maintenance of special high schools in the city of New York

---

DISAPPROVAL RECOMMENDED

Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller  
Governor of the State of New York  
Albany, New York

Dear Governor Rockefeller:

The above bill is before you for executive action.

This bill would require that admission (1) to the Bronx High School and Brooklyn Technical High School in the New York City School District be based on competitive, objective and scholastic examination, and (2) to the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and Art be based on competitive evidence of satisfactory achievement. It also permits these schools to maintain a discovery program to give disadvantaged students of demonstrated potential, meeting stated criteria, an opportunity to try the special high school program.

It has been alleged that the competitive method for ascertaining admission to these schools discriminates against Black and Puerto Rican applicants. These changes are now being carefully studied by a committee appointed by the Chancellor of the New York City Board of Education. Any action aimed at reform of the admission policies of these schools should be taken pursuant to the committee's report.

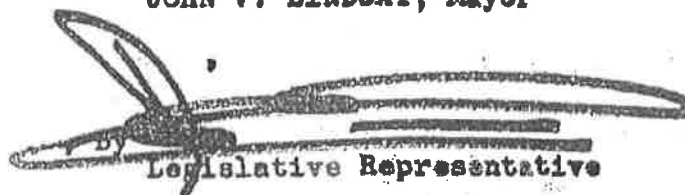
I fully endorse and support the aims and goals of specialized high schools. At the same time I believe that policy decisions specifically designed to affect schools and education in New York City are properly within the province of the New York City Board of Education.

Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller  
Page 2  
June 14, 1971

Accordingly, I urge your disapproval of this bill.

Very truly yours,

JOHN V. LINDSAY, Mayor



Legislative Representative



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
CITY HALL  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

BERTRAM R. GELFAND  
COUNCILMAN, 8TH DISTRICT, BRONX  
180 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10038

June 2, 1971

A7005A

Hon. Nelson A. Rockefeller  
Governor of New York  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Re: Hecht/Calandra Bill (A7005,  
S5668) on New York City  
Specialized High Schools

Dear Governor Rockefeller:

I am writing you to urge that you sign into law the above legislation passed by the Assembly and Senate to protect the future of New York City's four specialized high schools.

To indicate the broad support for this legislation, I enclose a copy of a resolution introduced in the New York City Council urging enactment of this legislation. Although this resolution has not been enacted as yet, it is sponsored by 23 of the 37 members of the Council. Included in this majority are Councilmen from all of the boroughs except Staten Island. The sponsors include Republicans, Regular Democrats, Reform Democrats, and Liberals.

It is entirely fitting that the future of these high schools should be protected by state law when they are threatened by the action by a Board of Education whose control over the city's school system was imposed by state legislation, and whose membership has just recently

Hon. Nelson A. Rockefeller -2-

June 2, 1971

been perpetuated in office by additional state legislation enacted this year. These schools fulfill a critical need to provide facilities for the gifted children of this city. The continuing threat that their existence based on merit admissions will be diluted is a source of deep concern to the thousands of parents who now depend upon these schools for their children and the additional thousands to whom these schools offer the only hope of providing their children with the fullest educational opportunity.

Your favorable consideration of this legislation will earn you the appreciation of all who are interested in quality education for all children in New York City.

Sincerely,

  
BERTRAM R. GELFAND  
City Councilman

BRG:cml

# THE COUNCIL



May 11, 1971.

Res. No. 513

**Resolution Urging the New York State Legislature and the Governor to Enact Into Law a Bill Mandating That the Board of Education of The City of New York Continue the Operation of Its Four Specialized High Schools with Admissions Based Upon Merit.**

By Messrs. Gelfand, Merola, DeMarco, and Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Greitzer, Mrs. Lerner, Mrs. Stromberg and Messrs. Troy, Ribustello, Burden, Friedland, Postel, Manton, Sadowsky, Manes, Ward, Scholnick, Arculeo, Silverman, Golden, and Haber--

**Whereas**, The Bronx High School of Science, High School of Music and Art, Stuyvesant High School, and Brooklyn Technical High School have outstanding educational records, and

**Whereas**, These institutions provide critically needed programs for the fullest development of the gifted child, and

**Whereas**, There is an obligation to provide the fullest education opportunity to all children, and

**Whereas**, The special programs for gifted children will be dissipated should admissions cease to be on the basis of merit, and

**Whereas**, The commitment of the Board of Education for the retention of specialized high schools is uncertain, and

**Whereas**, Their survival is critically dependent upon the mandate by state law, be it

**Resolved**, That the City Council urges the passage of the Calandra-Mecht bill (S5668, ASS7005) mandating continuation of such schools and be it further

**Resolved**, That the City Council urges Governor Nelson Rockefeller to sign said bill into law after its passage by the State Legislature.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Education.

**Added sponsors: Vice-Chairman Cuite and Salman**

STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

June 8, 1971

A 7005-A

TO: Counsel to the Governor  
FROM: Robert D. Stone  
SUBJECT: A 7005-A (Senate Print No. 30,052)

RECOMMENDATION: Disapproval

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

This bill adds a new subdivision 12 to section 2590-g of the Education Law to specify the procedure for admission to the Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn Technical High School and Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and the Arts.

Executive disapproval is urged because legislative determination of the requirements and procedures for admission to public schools is directly contrary to the concept of local governance of school districts, in conformity with applicable law, rules, regulations and educational policy.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

REGENTS

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CHANCELLOR  
EVERETT J. PENNY, WHITE PLAINS  
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EWALD B. NYQUIST, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY  
AND COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

JOSEPH W. MCGOVERN  
70 PINE STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10005

June 1, 1971

A 7005A

Dear Governor Rockefeller:

At our recent meeting the Board of Regents discussed the passage of Senate Reprint No. 30052 (Assembly No. 7005-A). This bill, if enacted into law, would establish entrance examination requirements and other conditions for four New York City High Schools: Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn Technical High School and the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and the Arts. This legislation is designed to limit the New York City Board of Education's power to alter operation of the schools included, and strikes directly at one of the most basic tenets on which New York State public education is founded, local control of the schools and their operation within established general Education Law and regulations.

(A)

The basic argument which the Regents present, and with which I concur, does not center on the advisability or inadvisability of restrictive admission policies in the listed schools. These issues can and should be debated on their merits in the particular context applicable in New York City and by those most concerned with their impact, the citizens and Board of Education in that City.

Inherent in this bill are far more serious implications of statutes dictating operation patterns for particular schools or particular districts. Enactment of such a law as proposed here will raise the specter of State level interference with individual school curricular, administration or direction whenever political expediency or pressures seem to demand. No local school district, even though operating scrupulously within the general educational constraints established by our State, would

Hon. Nelson A. Rockefeller  
Page 2  
June 1, 1971

thence further feel itself truly free to direct its own destiny in terms of its own peculiar needs.

I will not belabor the issue further. New York's pattern of shared responsibility between State and local authorities has a long and proud history and has served our citizens exceedingly well. You will understand that the Regents feel it their duty to bring the extreme consequences of enactment of this bill to your attention and to urge your veto of the measure. h

Sincerely,

  
Joseph W. McGovern

The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller  
Governor  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12201





5-5668<sup>70</sup> Bill  
Sobat  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
110 LIVINGSTON STREET  
BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11201

PETER A. PISCITELLI  
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

S 5668-A Calandra, et al.  
A 7005-A Hecht, et al.

Senate Calendar (Cal #1236)  
Senate Calendar (Cal #1108)

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the establishment and maintenance of special high schools in the City of New York

This bill requires that admission (1) to the Bronx High School of Science; Stuyvesant High School and Brooklyn Technical High School in the New York City School District be based on competitive, objective and scholastic examinations, and (2) to the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and Art be based on competitive examinations in music and/or the arts in addition to presenting evidence of satisfactory achievement. It also permits these schools to maintain a discovery program (with a specified limitation) to give disadvantaged students of demonstrated potential, meeting stated criteria, an opportunity to try the special high school program.

The New York City Board of Education strongly opposes this bill.

Charges of a serious nature were recently leveled against the present admissions plan. These allege that the examinations discriminate, on cultural grounds, against Negro and Puerto Rican applicants. These charges are now under careful study by a broad-based committee of outstanding citizens. The Chancellor has announced that he has no intention of (1) changing the system of admissions by competitive examinations or (2) substituting some other system. He has merely proposed that a hard look be taken at the entire matter.

This committee should be given an opportunity to report its findings on the charges made.

This bill places a limit on the discovery program presently in effect at the Bronx High School of Science, Brooklyn Technical High School and Stuyvesant High School, so that admissions under this program shall not exceed 14% of the number of students scoring above the cut-off score and admitted under the regular procedure. This limitation would reduce the numbers admitted under this program in the case of Brooklyn Technical High School and Stuyvesant High School. In September, 1970, the proportions admitted under this program to these schools were 22.1% and 15.5%, respectively. This, obviously, would be a step backward.

It is, therefore, our considered judgment that it would be most unfortunate for legislation to be enacted on matters of educational policy and administration that should be decided by officials of the educational system.

Accordingly, the Board of Education urges the defeat of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

PAP/pnm  
5/4/71

PETER A. PISCITELLI,  
Legislative Representative

S. 5668-A Bill  
Sector



BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
110 LIVINGSTON STREET  
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11201  
TELEPHONE 896-8984

PETER A. PISCITELLI  
LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

May 6, 1971

Mr. James Ayers  
Counsel to the Governor  
State Capitol Building  
Albany, New York

Dear Jim:

Re: S 5668-A  
A 7005-A

Enclosed please find backup material we discussed on the telephone today.

It is my understanding that the New York City Commission on Human Rights has come out with a report this week concerning the problem of discrimination generally and specifically in the special schools in the City of New York. I will make an effort to obtain a copy of this report for you.

The New York City Board of Education is unanimously opposed to this bill.

It is my belief that it would be in the best interests of the Governor to make his determination concerning this bill before it reaches his desk for executive action and in the hope that his determination would coincide with the opinion of my Board. I would respectfully suggest that it be transmitted to the leadership in either house with an attempt to have the bill starred on the calendar.

Sincerely,

PETER A. PISCITELLI,  
Legislative Representative

PAP/pnm  
Enclosures



515 West End Avenue  
New York, N. Y.  
April 30, 1971

Hon. John D. Calandra  
Senate Chamber, State Capitol  
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Senator Calandra,

My name is Regina Rosenthal. I am a student at the Bronx High School of Science. Throughout all my years as a student I have been taught to question. I have learned not to accept anything as truth, unless I am satisfied that it is the truth. I feel that education must constantly change to meet the needs of the youth at any given time. Education relevant to the 1930's and 1940's could not possibly be relevant to the 1970's, for people change, and problems change.

I took an admissions test to the Bronx High School of Science, and was accepted. I began to question the whole method of selection, since I knew many of the students who were both accepted and turned down. I began to wonder why some of the students who were really interested and creative in the maths and sciences were rejected, while other students who were interested in the liberal arts were accepted. I began to feel that something was very wrong with the whole method of selection. I was pleased when Chancellor Scribner promised to form a committee to investigate the subject. I also wondered why the Bronx High School of Science was 86.4% white. Could the test be invalid?

I am not in any position to "pass judgement". But I question. Maybe the admissions policy was able to determine learning potential in past years, but I question its ability to do so now. There is even the possibility that the test is completely obsolete. I know many Black and Puerto Rican students from my former Junior High School who, if accepted at Bronx Science, could have benefited greatly from our educational facilities. I know that everyone in Bronx Science could have benefited greatly from these students. You see, I believe that there are two kinds of education. One is the textbook education, mathematics, physics, American history, etc. The other kind of education is learning to live with other people; I believe in both. One can benefit greatly from the knowledge and exchange of different cultures. Only through living with, and going to school with peoples of many different racial backgrounds can we ever succeed in achieving true brotherhood.

I feel the admissions policy needs to be questioned. I ask why it is wrong for me to question. The Calandra-Hecht Bill says that it is wrong to question. It denies the right to question. I believe that only through questions, can we ever find the truth.

I feel that, as legislators, it is your duty to the youth of today to defeat the Calandra-Hecht Bill.

Sincerely yours,  
*Regina Rosenthal*  
Regina Rosenthal  
Student at Bronx H.S. of Sci

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE SPECIALIZED HIGH SCHOOLS

An Open Letter to all State Legislators on the Calandra-Mecht Bill  
(A7005/S5668)

Dear Sir:

We are New York City parents whose children are enrolled in one of the City's specialized High Schools: Bronx Science, Brooklyn Tech, Music and Art, Performing Arts or Stuyvesant. We write to urge you not to succumb to the deliberately misleading and hysterically-conceived campaign which has culminated in the introduction of the Calandra-Mecht Bill. We urge you to vote against this ill-conceived and harmful legislation.

The parents who are signatory to this letter strongly support the concept of the specialized High Schools. Indeed, each of us was delighted when our own children were selected for admission to one of these schools. We are alarmed about this legislation because of the fundamental public education policy issues involved, and because we are deeply and personally concerned with the quality of our own children's education and futures. We are in favor not only of keeping these schools, but of improving them.

This bill is destructive of that goal. Rather than preserving and strengthening the special schools, the bill cuts off the chance to improve them. It could, in the long run, accomplish the very thing it professes to prevent: the erosion and eventual destruction of these schools. We do not believe it is desirable or possible to attempt to block, by legislation, the investigation of obvious, identifiable and long-standing weaknesses in the admissions procedures and selection criteria for these schools.

The questions raised about these criteria impelled Chancellor Soribner to suggest that a sober, impartial and unemotional study is required -- within the context of maintaining the educational quality and excellence of the schools. We believe such a study is needed. We believe it may indicate ways in which the admissions procedures can be improved. We believe that exceptionally qualified and gifted children throughout our city are not being given equal opportunity to enter these schools.

Many parents, who sincerely wish to maintain and improve our specialized High Schools, have raised the possibility that there may be more equitable, more scientific, more defensible methods by which to select highly qualified youngsters for admission to these schools -- that there may be ways to supplement the one-time, competitive examination approach. Turgid, inflammatory and desperate rhetoric has been unleashed in response to these questions. An hysterical, illogical



and fearful barrage of charges has been leveled at those who suggest there may be room for improvement. Reckless accusations have been made, such as: "They are out to destroy the Bronx High School of Science and the other specialized High Schools," or, "they are advocating open enrollment" etc. ad nauseum.

What a shameful exhibition! And how untrue! But how effective this campaign must have been if it could convince 56 state legislators to support this Bill. We sincerely hope that you will give careful consideration to the attached fact sheet before taking action on this legislation.

Thank you for your attention.

Yolanda Kenyuli  
124 W. 96 St  
N.Y. N.Y. Music & Art High School

Leticia Ramirez  
10 Riverside Dr.  
N.Y. N.Y.  
Parent of child at  
Performing Arts

Liliana E. Blisch  
120 W 82nd St  
NYC NY  
Parent of child at  
Music & Art

Miriam Rosenthal  
515 West End Ave  
N.Y. N.Y.  
Parent of child at St.

Rhoda Karpatkin  
280 Riverside Drive  
NY, NY  
Parent of child at St.

Shula! Sugarman  
110 Riverside Dr.  
New York, N.Y.  
Parent of child at

Margaret Zylow - 1295 Amsterdam #156 N.Y.  
(Music & Art High School)

Mie M. Rollins - 110 Riverside Drive - Parent of Senior  
Performing  
and Freshman a

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
110 LIVINGSTON STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201  
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

April 30, 1971

MEMORANDUM

TO: NEOMA B. EPSTEIN

FROM: JACOB LANDERS

RE: MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE TO REVIEW ADMISSION POLICIES  
TO SPECIAL ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOLS

---

A list of individuals who have been invited to serve on the above Committee is attached. While I have not yet received acceptances from all, I have reason to believe that they will accept. Msgr. Eugene Molloy, Secretary for Education of the Diocese of Brooklyn, has also been invited to serve on the Committee, and he has indicated that he will recommend a name. You may be interested in noting that of the 24 members, at least 3 attended or are attending a special academic high school. As indicated, a number of other members are associated with the special academic high schools in some capacity.

I am also attaching a table giving the information you requested concerning admissions.

/lah

c.c. Dr. Harvey B. Scribner, Chancellor

FACTS ABOUT THE CALANDRA-HECHT BILL

1. The goal of maintaining the specialized High Schools as "citadels of excellence" is one in which we all share.
2. This bill does not help to accomplish that goal. Instead, it fixes by state law (and without the exhaustive, non-political study deserved by this complex question) one admissions procedure, one examination, one criterion.
3. It intrudes in an area of educational policy which is the province of the educational system of the city. That system is eminently more qualified to establish educational criteria, policy and admissions procedures -- which may require modification from year to year.
4. It imposes new scholastic achievement examination requirements for two of the specialized High Schools -- Music and Art and the High School of Performing Arts. These examinations have not been required up till now. The effect of this new requirement will be to screen out many talented black and Spanish-speaking youngsters.
5. The Calandra-Hecht Bill would prevent any examination of the many alternatives being used by educational institutions to discover excellence, potential, scientific and mathematical talent. It is a hasty and ill-defined response to an emotional, fearful and unrepresentative minority opinion.
6. This bill encourages the myopic view that injustice and unequal opportunity in education can continue to hide behind so-called objective, competitive tests which may be neither objective, nor truly competitive -- nor accurate measures of academic potential and achievement.

WE URGE YOU TO DEFEAT THE CALANDRA-HECHT BILL.



Pupils Admitted To Three Special Academic High Schools  
Bronx H.S. of Sci., Brooklyn Tech. H.S., Stuyvesant H.S.  
September 1969 and September 1970

| School       | Admissions 9/69       |                      |                      | Admissions 9/70       |                      |                      |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|              | Regular               | Discovery            | Total                | Regular               | Discovery            | Total                |
| Bronx Sci.   | 996<br>86.5%          | 155<br>13.5%         | 1151<br>100%         | 959<br>86.1%          | 155<br>13.9%         | 1114<br>100%         |
| Bk. Tech.    | 1696<br>93.4%         | 122<br>6.6%          | 1818<br>100%         | 1449<br>77.9%         | 411<br>22.1%         | 1860<br>100%         |
| Stuyv.       | 743<br>85.5%          | 126<br>14.5%         | 869<br>100%          | 743<br>84.5%          | 136<br>15.5%         | 879<br>100%          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>3435<br/>89.5%</b> | <b>403<br/>10.5%</b> | <b>3838<br/>100%</b> | <b>3151<br/>81.8%</b> | <b>702<br/>18.2%</b> | <b>3853<br/>100%</b> |

Totals 9/1969 and 9/1970:

|                  |      |       |
|------------------|------|-------|
| <u>Regular</u>   | 6586 | 85.6% |
| <u>Discovery</u> | 1105 | 14.4% |
| <u>Total</u>     | 7691 | 100 % |

April 30, 1971

Committee to Review Admission Policies to Special  
Academic High Schools

| <u>Name</u>                  | <u>Affiliation or Occupation</u>                  |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Mr. George Altomare       | V. Pres., U.F.T.                                  |
| 2. Mr. Thomas Avitabile      | Pres., G.O., Compers Voc. H.S.                    |
| 3. Dr. Jack S. Bloomfield    | Principal, J.H.S. 2 R                             |
| 4. Dr. Ralph T. Brande       | Comm. Supt., District No. 14                      |
| 5. Mr. John Burnell          | Regional Director, Central Labor Council          |
| 6. Mr. Jose Cabranas         | Attorney, and Law Professor                       |
| 7. Mr. Peter Cassi           | Parent of pupil at Bklyn Tech. H.S.               |
| 8. Dr. James A. Colston      | President, Bronx Comm. College                    |
| 9. <del>Mr. Floyd Flom</del> | <del>Member, City-wide High School Council</del>  |
| 10. Mr. Joseph Francois      | Member, Education Com., Council Against Poverty   |
| 11. * Dr. Jerry C. Jacobs    | Professor in Pediatrics, Columbia University      |
| 12. Mr. Ira Marienhoff       | President, Council for Specialized High Schools   |
| 13. Mrs. Marjorie Matthews   | Chairman, C.S.B. No. 16                           |
| 14. Mr. Raul A. Morales      | Member, C.S.B. No. 9                              |
| 15. * Mr. Sid Morgan         | President, G.O., H.S. of Music and Art            |
| 16. Mr. Luis Nieves          | Executive Director, ASPIRA                        |
| 17. Dr. Richard Pearson      | Dean, John Jay College of Criminal Justice        |
| 18. Mr. Charles Pilgrim      | Vice-President, United Parents Association        |
| 19. Mrs. J. Lawrence Poor    | President, Public Education Association           |
| 20. Mrs. Sophia K. Price     | President, Association of N.Y. City School Boards |
| 21. Dr. Lincoln Reis         | Member, Board of Trustees, Citizens Union         |
| 22. Mr. Elliott Saason       | President, Student Council, J.H.S. 234 K          |
| 23. Dr. Alexander Taffel     | Principal, Bronx N. S. of Science                 |
| 24. * Mr. Leroy Watkins      | Assistant Principal, P.S. 192 M                   |

\* Known to have attended a special academic high school.



Dr. Matthew Mathew  
 Chancellor, Board of Education  
 110 Livingston Street  
 Brooklyn, New York

Dear Dr. Mathew,

Members of the administration and faculty of the Bronx High School of Science have launched a political campaign in the erroneous impression that they are "saving" the "integrity" of the school. The reference, of course, is to the very serious charges made against our admission procedures by superintendent Alfredo Mathew of district 3 on the ground that an admission policy based on a culturally biased examination screens out black and Puerto Rican pupils. It is precisely because we highly value the programs for the gifted child offered at the school that we must deplore this political thrust. An alignment of political forces which would duplicate that in the school struggle of 1968 (and we perceive them in the making) can only be ruinous for all the specialized high schools.

The State Education Law and the directives of the Board of Education mandate integration as the highest priority goal for educators. For this reason, a goal of special education for intellectually gifted pupils can only find its justification in educational reasons that are compatible with integration. We believe that a school that services all the citizens of the city can only exist with the freely given acquiescence of all the people. If any large number of people should become antagonistic to our policies, it is impossible to see how we can continue in the long run.

We do not feel that a demand that our admission procedures be changed to admit more black and Puerto Rican pupils in any way constitutes a "threat" to our school. We feel confident that there are many gifted black and Puerto Rican pupils who have been overlooked by our admission procedures. Furthermore, Dr. Mathew has made it clear that he accepts the purpose of specialized high schools provided that they provide opportunities for larger numbers of black and Puerto Rican students. His point that more than 70% of our freshman class come from private and parochial schools, while at the same time, there are many de facto segregated Junior High Schools that send us no-one, defies explanation. His specific complaint against the nature of our entrance examination is a highly technical educational matter on which political figures have no competency to pass judgment. It is our firm belief that there certainly do exist methods of making a meaningful selection of students that would both serve gifted students and promote integration.

At this point, we must say that we have not heard anyone at Bronx Science seriously try to confront these educational issues on their merits. Rather, meetings have been called to rally political opposition to any attempt to change admission procedures so that they can be made to favor integration. Undocumented statements have been made that your office has issued a directive to the specialized high schools instructing them not to send out notices to students who have taken the 1971 entrance examinations. If such a directive was sent, we do not feel that it would constitute an effort on your part to unilaterally eliminate the specialized high schools as is implied by teachers and administrators who are now the focal point of political opposition to such a supposed "threat".

It is most calamitous that well-meaning political figures have been approached and have staked their reputations on the basis of the most nebulous information concerning the real issues involved here. Lines have already been drawn among members of school boards



on the foggiest of notions about some "threat" to the Bronx High School of Science. One respected member of local School Board 20 at a public meeting of the Board had the temerity to threaten that white middle class citizens would move from the city if you re-evaluated our admissions procedure. It seems that the "educational response" to Dr. Mathew and you, is a political steamroller not used by people who have always maintained that the specialized high schools remain under your jurisdiction and control. Now, they become ardent advocates of "community control" and "local control" when it serves their purposes.

Our concern in writing this letter is to alert you to the fact that the specialized high schools are likely to become the first casualties in a political battle. So, therefore, appeal to you to take a firm stand for resolving Dr. Mathew's charges in accordance with the interests of all groups concerned on the basis of the Board of Education's long stated policy to promote integration. We welcome your proposal to create a broad-based commission to examine and re-evaluate the admissions procedures of the Bronx High School of Science so that schools for the gifted child in New York City can be preserved.

Sincerely yours,  
Bernard Rutich and  
Louis Wainer  
Teachers at the Bronx  
High School of Science

*Bernard Rutich*  
*Louis Wainer*

Copies to: Mayor John Lindsay  
Dr. H. Bergtraum  
Dr. Alfredo Mathew  
Father Zicarelli  
Albert Shanker  
NY Times  
N.Y. Post  
Village Voice

Bill  
Jerkets

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
110 LIVINGSTON STREET  
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11201

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HARVEY B. SCHIBNER, CHIEF CLERK  
HAROLD BIEGLER, SECRETARY

P 106 -

June 4, 1971

MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

A 7005-A Mr. Hecht, et al  
(S30,052)  
AN ACT

To amend the education law, in relation to the establishment and maintenance of special high schools in the city of New York

Dear Governor Rockefeller:

The above bill is before you for executive action.

This bill requires that admission (1) to the Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School and Brooklyn Technical High School in the New York City School District be based on competitive, objective and scholastic examinations; and (2) to the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and Art be based on competitive examinations in music and/or the arts in addition to presenting evidence of satisfactory achievement. It also permits these schools to maintain a discovery program to give disadvantaged students of demonstrated potential meeting stated criteria an opportunity to try the special high school program.

The New York City Board of Education strongly opposes this bill.

Charges of a serious nature were recently leveled against the present admissions plan. These allege that the examinations discriminate, on cultural ground, against Black and Puerto Rican applicants. These charges are now under careful study by a broad-based committee of outstanding citizens.

The Chancellor has announced that he has no intention of (1) changing the system of admissions by competitive examinations or (2) substituting some other system. He has merely proposed that a hard look be taken at the entire matter.

This committee should be given an opportunity to report its findings on the charges made.

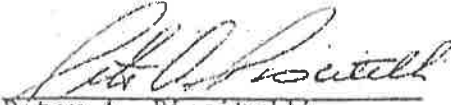
It is, therefore, the considered judgement of the New York City Board of Education that it would be most unfortunate for legislation to be enacted on matters of educational policy and administration that should be decided by officials of the educational system.

Accordingly, the Board of Education urges you to disapprove this bill.

Respectfully,

Murry Bergtraum  
President

by

  
Peter A. Piscitelli  
Legislative Representative

The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller  
Governor of the State of New York  
The State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

THE HIGH SCHOOL OF  
MUSIC AND ART

A DIVISION OF THE FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA HIGH SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS  
135 STREET AT CONVENT AVENUE • NEW YORK 10031  
RICHARD A. KLEIN, PRINCIPAL PHONE: 926-0870

May 27, 1971

Governor Rockefeller  
Albany, New York

Dear Mr. Rockefeller;

Now that the bill to safeguard the entrance examinations for the four specialized high schools of New York City awaits your signature I would like to explain my reasons for having urged its passage and for now urging its being signed into law.

I have been principal of the LaGuardia High School of Music and the Arts for the past three years and have, in that short span been placed in the position of fending off repeated attempts to subvert, bypass, or do away with an entrance examination which fairly and objectively permits students of every racial and ethnic origin, of every social and economic level and from every neighborhood in the City of New York to receive the benefits of the special training their talent and potential indicates they deserve.

During the years of my tenure we have spent considerable time reviewing these examinations with students, artists, parents, community groups and other interested parties in an ongoing attempt to guarantee the absolute objectivity of the performance type examination we conduct. Our results are available for inspection by the parents of those students who are denied admission following the annual examination and in every case I make myself available to thoroughly discuss every aspect of the youngsters performance, not only with the parents, but with the friends of the family, former teachers, community groups and any other interested or concerned parties. I will continue to do this after the new law goes into effect, the difference being that I will be in a far better position to withstand the threats to my (untenured) position if the son of a particular political figure is not admitted despite his poor showing on the examination, or the threats to my health and physical safety if the child of a local racketeer is not similarly accepted, or the very real threats to the continued normal operations of the school if a particular school district or individual school is not given special consideration and particular advantage by means of a special quota arrangement just for them, all of which, I assure you, have actually been attempted these past three years.

4/3

JUN 6 1971

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

THE HIGH SCHOOL OF  
**MUSIC AND ART**

A DIVISION OF THE FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA HIGH SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS

135 STREET AT CONVENT AVENUE • NEW YORK 10021

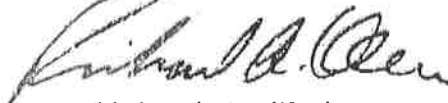
RICHARD A. KLEIN, PRINCIPAL      PHONE: 926-0870

May 27, 1971

Governor Rockefeller... Page 2

Our schools have reputations for excellence which are unique. We attract visitors from all parts of the world who marvel at our ability to provide quality integrated education for so many youngsters from so many different backgrounds. The answer is that our examinations test for potential and our quality can be maintained only under the protection of the bill which, when signed into law will guarantee that this objective standard remains as the basis for admission.

Very truly,



Richard A. Klein  
Principal

RAK/ac

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE BAR  
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
42 WEST 44TH STREET  
NEW YORK 10036

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CHAIRMAN  
48 WALL STREET  
NEW YORK 10006  
TEL. HA 2-8100

M. BLANK MICHAEL  
SECRETARY  
48 WALL STREET  
NEW YORK 10006  
TEL. HA 2-8100

June 11, 1971

Re: A. 7005-A - Disapproved

Dear Mr. Whiteman:

In reply to your inquiry, we disapprove the referenced bill.

The bill, to take effect January 1, 1972, would amend Section 2590-g of the Education Law to require that admissions to the three special high schools in New York City (Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School, and Brooklyn Technical High School) be determined solely by taking a competitive, objective, and scholastic achievement examination, the students with the highest scores being admitted, and that the admission to the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and the Arts be based on competitive examinations in music and/or the arts.

By such requirements the bill substitutes the judgment of the legislature for the judgment of the school authorities empowered by the legislature only recently to operate the New York City high schools on the question of admission procedures for these special schools.

Regardless of the wisdom and fairness of the present admissions examination method, there have been no findings by the legislature or by any committees of the legislature that such admission tests would be in the best interests of New York City education. It is sound policy to leave such decisions to the discretion of the Chancellor and the New York City Board of Education where there are the requisite expertise and consultative services. Indeed, the Chancellor has begun such a review and consultative procedures, as appears from the annexed release by the Board of Education.

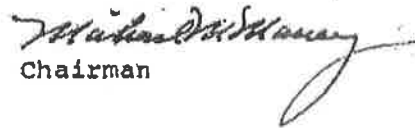
Hon. Michael Whiteman

-2-

A further objection to the bill is that it attempts to establish, by legislative fiat and without prior investigation, an exclusive admission procedure whose intrinsic merit has been seriously questioned.

For the reasons stated, the bill is disapproved.

Sincerely,

  
Chairman

Hon. Michael Whiteman  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

This letter was prepared by the Association's Committee on Municipal Affairs.

LEONARD G. IRVIN  
COUNSELOR AT LAW  
700 WHITE PLAINS ROAD  
ROOM 240  
SCARSDALE, NEW YORK 10583  
914 - 472-4200

June 15, 1971

12/18  
Hon. Michael Whiteman  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Honorable Sir:

I am compelled to write to correct an erroneous impression given by the letter of June 11, 1971 addressed to you by the chairman of the State Legislation Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, which letter disapproved bill A-7005A.

That letter was indicated to have been prepared by the Municipal Affairs Committee of the Association. It was not. The members of that Committee were not consulted with reference to the contents of the letter, nor were their views polled concerning A-7005A. The letter was drafted by a few members of this committee who were not in any manner authorized to speak on behalf of the committee. It therefore represents only their personal views.

Regrettably two of the drafters of that letter represent Community School Board #3. (One is a former member of that Board.) You are probably aware that this district is the one which inaugurated the campaign to dilute the academic requirements for admission to the Bronx High School of Science. They therefore have a substantial commitment to the defeat of this piece of legislation.

Unfortunately the letter distorts the plain meaning and intent of A-7005A. It states: "The bill...would...require that admissions to the three special high schools in New York City...be determined solely by taking a competitive, objective, and scholastic achievement examination, the students with the highest scores being admitted..."

It significantly omits to state that the bill specifically permits a second means of admission to these schools - the "discovery program"

-2-

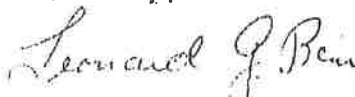
for "disadvantaged students". The bill provides that disadvantaged students who do not score sufficiently high on the competitive examination may be permitted to enter through this program. The basis for such selection is semi-objective. The bill in no way limits either the number or percentage of such students who may be admitted in this manner. It does require that all students who enter the specialized schools through this channel be required to take and pass a preparatory summer program to insure that they will be able "to successfully cope with the special high school program".

Very clearly then this piece of legislation represents a policy decision by the legislature that efforts to provide "compensatory" educational opportunity to disadvantaged students by means of admission to the specialized high schools be limited only by the necessity of maintaining the academic standards of these schools.

The letter advances the argument that this determination is a matter of educational expertise and should have been left to the educational establishment. The argument is specious. The issue involved is purely and simply one of value judgment and policy decision. Particularly during the present City Administration, our educational establishment has been indulging in social engineering under the guise of exercising educational expertise. On the whole the results have been unhappy. In passing A-7005A the legislature has faced its obligation, as representative of the people, to determine policy. This is exactly as it should be.

I do not know the personal feelings of all of the members of the Municipal Affairs Committee regarding the letter or the bill. I would hope and expect that the consensus would be that neither the Committee nor the Association should take any position regarding this type of legislation. The "elitist" premise implicit in a group of lawyers expressing their personal value judgments as a "professional" opinion on a matter of policy determined by the elected representatives of our State offends my sense of democracy.

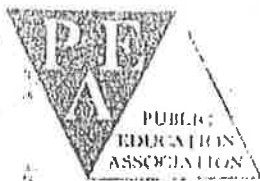
Sincerely,

  
LEONARD G. BEIN

LGB:AW

4/13





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212 - 524 - 3575

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June 4, 1971

A 7005-A

Hon. Michael Whiteman  
Counsel to the Governor  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, New York

Dear Mr. Whiteman:

We are writing to urge Governor Rockefeller to veto Assembly Bill No. 7005-A.

We believe in the concept of specialized high schools and feel that they should be maintained as part of the public school system. We also believe that along with maintenance and preservation goes the responsibility of improving them to meet the needs of the children of our city. Along these lines, Chancellor Scribner has recently appointed a study committee to reexamine admission procedures to ascertain whether all students are given a fair and equal opportunity to enter these specialized schools. This study should certainly go forward and its recommendations for improvement seriously considered. They should not be encumbered by the present legislation that mandates that there is only one avenue for admission. That decision should be a local one and decided only after thorough and thoughtful review.

With respect to subdivision (d) of the bill, we believe that the maintenance of a discovery program should not be based on ranked order of entrance examination scores. These examinations have questionable validity in measuring the true potential of disadvantaged students, and it would be educationally very unsound to admit such students strictly on the basis of rank order scores on such examinations.

Lastly, we believe this legislation would have exactly the opposite effect from that intended by its supporters, that is preservation of the special schools. It is seen on the part of many in the minority communities

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Mr. Whiteman

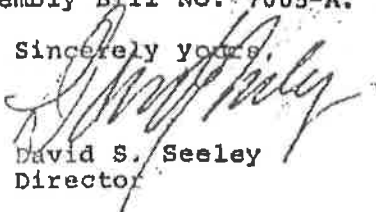
-2-

June 4, 1971

as vindictive legislation directed against them. As such it will breed resentment toward these schools, rather than respect, and will hurt their chances for survival in the long run.

Knowing the Governor's strong commitment in the past to quality education, we hope he will seriously consider these comments and veto Assembly Bill No. 7005-A.

Sincerely yours,



David S. Seeley  
Director

DSS:fm

The Cooper Union  
for the Advancement  
of Science and Art

May 17, 1971

Cooper Square  
New York, N.Y. 10003  
(212) 254 6300

Governor Nelson Rockefeller  
Governor's Mansion  
Albany, New York

A7005A

School of Engineering  
and Science

Dear Governor Rockefeller,

As an educator who for almost 25 years has had extensive experience in higher education with alumni of all the specialized high schools of New York City, I most strongly urge your support for and gubernatorial approval of the Calandra-Hecht Bill (S5668, A7005) which would require that admission to these schools be based only on academic promise, as demonstrated by examinations and previous school record, except for up to 1/8 of the admittees who would come in on the Discovery Program for previously educationally disadvantaged pupils.

As I personally well know, the alumni of these schools, who were aided immeasurably in their development by the curriculum and the level of education they had been able to receive because of the quality of the student body, have developed into leaders in the disciplines of technology, the sciences and the arts wherein evaluation of excellence must be color-blind.

Unless this bill is legislated, the future of these schools is periodically in jeopardy. The City, the State, and indeed the nation cannot lightly bear the loss of these sources of uncommon men and women.

Respectfully yours,

*A. Aaron Yalow*

A. Aaron Yalow, Ph.D.  
Professor of Physics

AAV/dd

MAY 23 1971

NEW YORK STATE  
SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

111 Washington Avenue — Albany, New York 12210  
Telephone 518 468-3474

June 4, 1971

A 7005-A

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The Honorable Michael Whiteman  
Counsel to the Governor  
Executive Chamber  
The Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Mr. Whiteman:

We have your request for our comments concerning  
A7005-A by Mr. Hecht et al which would amend the Education  
Law in relation to the establishment and maintenance of  
special high schools in the City of New York.

This bill not only authorizes the establishment of  
special high schools in New York City, but it also  
establishes the criteria for entrance to such schools.

Statutory entrance requirements for secondary schools  
have several shortcomings. They impose legislative judg-  
ment over that of educational authorities. They are  
inflexible in a period of rapid change. They prevent the  
people who are responsible for the operation of the school  
from making any meaningful decisions regarding the selection  
of students.

For these reasons this Association respectfully requests  
that the Governor veto this measure.

Sincerely yours,

*Everett R. Dyer*  
EVERETT R. DYER  
Executive Director

ERD/Fjls



AR

11-7065

CONFERENCE OF LARGE CITY  
BOARDS OF EDUCATION

111 WASHINGTON AVENUE • ALBANY, NEW YORK 12210

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June 23, 1971

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Counsel to the Governor  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

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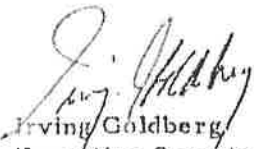
Dear Mr. Whiteman:

Re: A 7005-A/S 30052

This legislation appears to be a first step in having the Legislature determine educational policy. Issues unrelated to the educational needs of young people could tend to determine those policies.

I would therefore strongly urge disapproval of this proposed legislation.

Very truly yours,

  
Irving Goldberg  
Executive Secretary

IG:gl

**UNITED Federation of Teachers**  
**LOCAL 2 · AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFL-CIO**  
Affiliated with New York State AFL-CIO, New York City Central Labor Council,  
Empire State Federation of Teachers



200 Park Avenue South  
New York, N. Y. 10010  
Spring 7-7500

*A 7005A*

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF A. 7005A

PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

Amends the education law to maintain the special high schools in New York City.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

These schools were established back in Mayor LaGuardia's administration. Throughout the years they have been the pride of the New York City educational system. Their students have won more than their share of Regents, Westinghouse and National Merit scholarships.

The parents of these students have been involved in the schools to a much greater degree than parents in other high schools.

In order to enable more Black and Puerto Rican children to qualify for these schools, a special Discovery program was initiated. These students who are recommended by their junior high school are given an intensive course during the summer before entry in order to be able to keep up with the other students.

We believe that the fears of the students and parents that the schools were in danger of dissolution will be laid to rest by the enactment of this legislation.

We urge your support.

*Reuben W. Mitchell*  
REUBEN W. MITCHELL  
Associate Legislative Representative

*Alice F. Marsh*  
ALICE F. MARSH  
Legislative Representative

opvlu:153  
RWM:AFM:sa  
6/10/71



*New York State Council of Churches*  
3049 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, N. Y. 13224

Telephone 315-446-6151

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Director of Life and Work

REV. CHARLES H. SCHWENK  
Director of Prison and  
Development

*12/12*

June 15, 1971

MEMORANDUM on A. 7005-A -- to amend the education law in relation  
to the establishment and maintenance of  
special high schools in New York City.

We approve, no comment.

For the Legislative Commission



Rev. Robert T. Cobb, Director  
The Legislative Commission

RTC/es