

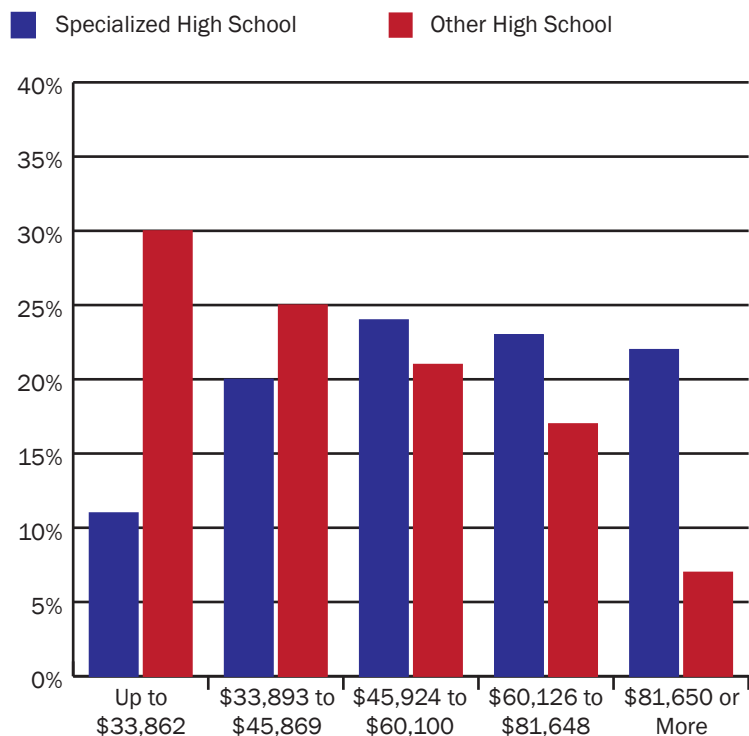
Do a Larger Share of Students Attending the City's Specialized High Schools Live in Neighborhoods With Higher Median Incomes than Those Attending the City's Other High Schools?

The city's Department of Education runs nine specialized high schools that are among the most selective of the city's public high schools. Eight schools admit students based solely on the score attained on the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test and admission to LaGuardia High School is based on an audition. All 8th graders and first-time 9th graders who are New York City residents are eligible to take the test. The score required for acceptance depends on the school and varies each year.

IBO used the address of each student attending a New York City public high school in the 2012-2013 school year to identify the census tract in which each student lived and the median household income for households residing in the tract. We then compared the median incomes of the neighborhoods where students lived who were attending the specialized high schools with those of students attending all other public high schools.

- Students in the specialized high schools came from census tracts where the median household income averaged \$62,457 compared with \$46,392 for students in other high schools. (All dollar amounts are reported in 2012 dollars).
- If we rank the census tracts by their median income and then divide the tracts into equal fifths (quintiles), we observe large differences between the share of students in specialized high schools and other high schools from each quintile.

Students in Specialized High Schools More Likely to Reside in Higher Income Neighborhoods, 2012-2013



- Only 11 percent of specialized high school students came from the lowest income census tracts (those where the median household income is less than or equal to \$33,862) whereas 30 percent of students in other high schools came from these neighborhoods.
- Twenty-six percent of specialized high school students reside in the top income quintile (the 22 percent of census tracts with median incomes over \$81,650) compared with just 7 percent of those attending other high schools
- Overall, the share of students attending specialized high schools increases steadily and then drops marginally in the two highest quintiles, as we move from the census tracts with lower median household incomes to the census tracts with higher median incomes. For students attending other Department of Education high schools, the pattern is the opposite: the share of students declines as median income increases.

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SOURCES: Department of Education; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B19013

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