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June 24, 2020

## Resolution #87

### Calling for Elimination of Admissions Screens for Middle and High Schools

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated the long-standing inequities in our public education system, with many students still without digital devices 8 weeks into remote learning or unable to fully participate in remote learning for a variety of reasons;

WHEREAS because of remote learning challenges faced by many families, the NYC Department of Education now prohibits the use of attendance in student performance evaluation or as an admissions criterion and has issued a grading policy that eliminates numerical grades in K through 8 grades;

WHEREAS in response to COVID19, the NYS Education Department cancelled, the NYS standardized tests for ELA and Math in grades 3 through 8 for this academic year;

WHEREAS many Middle and High Schools that screen students for admission use attendance, report card grades and state test scores as metrics;

WHEREAS these admissions screen metrics will not be available for the admissions cycle 2020-2021;

WHEREAS the use of admissions screens disproportionately excludes Black and Latinx, low-income, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities;

WHEREAS students who are disadvantaged by admissions screens (those living in poverty or temporary housing, with disabilities, and multilingual learners) are also more likely to be struggling during remote learning;

WHEREAS the racially and socioeconomically disparate impact of COVID-19 has shown us that we must move past inequitable systems, and cannot return to "business as usual," but rather we must begin to build a more equitable system for all students;

WHEREAS recovering from the academic and social-emotional impact of the pandemic requires a collective mindset, with every school taking on its fair share of the challenge of supporting students most impacted by the pandemic, rather than the pre-pandemic practice of concentrating students with greatest needs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Education Council District 5 urges the Department of Education to end the use of discriminatory admissions screens.