



Community Education Council 24

Public School 71 Forest
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RESOLUTION NO. 204

IN SUPPORT OF EXTENDING GIFTED & TALENTED AND SCREENED SEATS THROUGH GRADES 6–8 AT PS/IS 87

Sponsored by: Matthew Crescio, CEC24 President

Co-Sponsored by: Kate Barvels

WHEREAS, Community Education Council District 24 (“CEC24”) has consistently supported expanding strong academic opportunities for students and families within Community School District 24; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, then-Superintendent Chan, working in collaboration with CEC24, advocated for additional Gifted & Talented seats within District 24; and

WHEREAS, as a result of that advocacy, District 24 was granted four additional Gifted & Talented programs, with program sites selected through collaboration between District 24 leadership and CEC24; and

WHEREAS, PS/IS 87 was chosen as one of the program sites due to the lack of screened middle school choices available to students and families in District 24; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the 2022–2023 school year, an additional class was added each year as the program expanded with its enrolled cohorts; and

WHEREAS, for the 2025–2026 school year, PS/IS 87 was no longer listed as a screened middle school site, resulting in students enrolled in the elementary-level program having no comparable pathway to continue at PS/IS 87 in grades 6–8; and

WHEREAS, CEC24 has heard directly from students and parents who want to remain at PS/IS 87 for middle school but have expressed concern that, without Gifted & Talented and screened seats in grades 6–8, the school does not meet the academic needs of those students; and

WHEREAS, when students and families cannot access an appropriate academic program at PS/IS 87, some are choosing other middle school options, including charter schools, rather than remaining within District 24; and

WHEREAS, District 24 has experienced declining student enrollment, making the retention of students and families an important priority for the district; and

WHEREAS, the principal of PS/IS 87 has expressed support for extending the program through grades 6–8 and has indicated that the school has the capacity to accommodate these additional seats; and

WHEREAS, extending Gifted & Talented and screened seats through grades 6–8 at PS/IS 87 would provide academic continuity for students, respond to concerns raised by families, and help District 24 retain students who may otherwise leave for other educational options;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Education Council District 24 formally requests that Superintendent Anthony Rivera open Gifted & Talented and screened seats at PS/IS 87 for grades 6, 7, and 8; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC24 requests that these seats provide students currently enrolled at PS/IS 87 with a meaningful opportunity to continue their education at the school through middle school in a program that meets their academic needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC24 believes opening these seats will support student retention within District 24 at a time when the district is experiencing declining enrollment; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that CEC24 requests that Superintendent Rivera take the necessary steps to open Gifted & Talented and screened seats for grades 6–8 at PS/IS 87 beginning with the earliest possible admissions cycle and provide CEC24 with an update regarding implementation.

Adopted by Community Education Council District 24 on: _____

Vote: (CEC 24) – Roll Call (Check One Per Member)

Matthew Crescio: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Gina Liberta: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Anna Karwowska: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Felicia McHugh: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Kate Barvels: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Aliya Bonar: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Brian Augustine: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Manisha Jain: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Bhavi Vakil: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

