

# ANTHONY MIRANDA

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FOR QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT 2020



## EDUCATION

### Specialized Schools

- ***We will work to make the quality of education of all public schools in Queens equitable! We will advocate to diversify our schools' curriculum with more extracurricular activities to keep our students from having to leave the borough to get a high-quality education.***
- Specialized schools create a school system of haves and have nots; a very small group of students get an advanced education allowing them to excel in their chosen subjects while leaving the majority of their peers behind.
- Although Black and Hispanic students make up 67% of NYC public high schools, only 10% of them go to a specialized school.
- We must think about fixing this two-tier system, and instead, equitably fund and increase the quality of all New York schools.
- Tests should not be the only criteria for entrance to these schools; we support a more rigorous admissions process that looks at the students' grades, teacher recommendations, and extracurricular activities.
- We will work to diversify the Department of Education's curriculum and encourage all students to gain a well-rounded STEAM education.

## Student Hunger and Homelessness

- [One in ten](#) New York City students lacked stable housing last school year, 85% of which are Black or Hispanic, while [one in four](#) children are at risk of hunger.
- These conditions make it very difficult for these children to succeed academically, and many of them are failing state tests in math and reading.
- We will advocate for funding for more social workers and guidance counselors who can guide and support them through DHS bureaucracy, along with opening food pantries at all schools in the NYC area.
- ***We will make support for children and their families more accessible at schools by working with local elected officials, nonprofits and other organizations.***
- We must fight against the federal attacks to limit the Free School Lunch Program, and instead, ensure the program is available year-round.

## Ending the School to Prison Pipeline

- The New York City school system [disciplines black and Hispanic students at higher rates](#) than white and Asian children; they represent about 90 percent of arrests and summonses in schools!
- At the same time, [teachers of color represented 42% of New York City's teaching force, while 80% of New York City's students are Black, Hispanic, and Asian](#), this fact influences these discriminatory disciplinary practices.
- The school-to-prison pipeline costs New York City and the DOE [\\$746.8 million](#).
- ***We need more teacher diversity and more programs to ensure our students' success outside of school. It's time to stop treating our students as criminals, and instead, give them the support and resources to excel!***
- We support divestment from this system by reducing and possibly eliminating NYPD personnel, metal detectors, and arrests in our schools
- We must begin expunging students' criminal and disciplinary records and ban all suspensions and expulsions for students below the Third Grade.
- We need to then replace them with mental health professionals and social workers trained in restorative justice practices to give students a place to vent their frustrations and troubles and have a place for conflict resolution.
- We need to also invest in a [universal youth jobs program, college access programs, and reduced-fare MetroCards/free unlimited MetroCards for students](#) to open opportunities for them at every corner of the city.
- We will fight to get more teachers of color in Queens schools to reflect our diverse environment and ensure students have more positive perceptions of school.
- We will advocate to expand before- and after-school childcare to support parents working long hours and to ensure their children are in a safe and stimulating environment.

## Funding for the City University of New York (CUNY) and Technical Schools

- The City University of New York has approximately 274,000 students, most of whom come from New York City's public schools.
- CUNY has stepped up in places where New York City's public school system has fallen behind, as [eighty percent](#) of New York City high school graduates need to relearn basic skills before they can enter the City University's community colleges.
- Although CUNY and technical schools have been commended for having some the greatest success in lifting low-income students into the middle class, [they have been continually underfunded](#) by the city and state, while tuition has been allowed to rise, making it less accessible.
- CUNY's underfunding is allowing for [dilapidated infrastructure, reductions in faculty hiring, and limited student resources](#).
- Our long term goal is to make all CUNY and technical schools free and tuition-less, [as it was before 1976](#), to make it accessible for all.
- ***We will become a voice for CUNY, technical schools, and its students and faculty and fight to increase funding from the city and state to ensure that a high-quality college and technical education is available for Queens and NYC residents.***