Specialized High Schools
Proposal

Making Admissions to the Specialized High Schools More Equitable for All Students

The Specialized High Schools are:

- The Bronx High School of Science
- The Brooklyn Latin School
- Brooklyn Technical High School
- High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College of New York
- High School of American Studies at Lehman College
- Queens High School for the Sciences at York College
- Staten Island Technical High School
- Stuyvesant High School

A ninth Specialized High School, LaGuardia High School, is not part of this proposal.

GOALS

Consider more than a single exam

Maintain academic rigor

Increase diversity

A better and fairer admissions process:

- **Use multiple factors—not the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT)—to make offers to students.**
  - A single exam is not the best indicator of student potential.
  - New York City is the only district in the country to admit students based on a single exam.*

- **Maintain the academic rigor of the Specialized High Schools (SHS).**

- **Increase diversity at the Specialized High Schools.**
  - In 2016, 50% of SHS offers went to students at only 4% of all New York City middle schools. We want the students attending the SHS to come from middle schools across the city and to better reflect our city's diverse populations.
  - Black and Latino students make up 68% of the NYC high school population, but only 9% of those offered a seat.
  - Low-income students make up 75% of the NYC high school population, but only 40% of those offered a seat.

What is the proposal?

NOW

Expand the Discovery program to 20% of seats

Target students at high-poverty schools

Part 1

- Begin to expand the Discovery program to 20% of seats at each SHS.

The Discovery program is a summer enrichment program that helps high-performing, disadvantaged students gain admission to a SHS.

Students will be eligible if they meet all of the following three criteria:

1	Score right below the cutoff score on the SHSAT.
2	Are disadvantaged based on their household income, housing situation, or English Language Learner status.
3	Attend a high-poverty school.

A high-poverty school has an Economic Need Index (ENI) of at least 60%. This estimates the percentage of students in a school who face economic hardship. Look up any school's ENI on the school performance dashboard: tools.nycenet.edu/dashboard/.

NEXT

Phase out SHSAT

Offers go to top-performing students

Part 2

- Over three years, phase out the SHSAT.

- Make SHS offers to the top 7% of students from each DOE public middle school.
  - Students would receive ranks based on (1) their 7th grade New York State Math and ELA exam scores and (2) their 7th grade English, math, social studies, and science course grades compared to other students in their school.*
  - Students would be ordered by their rank to determine top performers at each school.
  - To receive a SHS offer, top-performing students' ranks would also need to be in the top 25% of the city.

New York State Law currently requires the SHSAT as the sole criterion for admission to the SHS. In order for any of these changes to go into effect, the New York State legislature must vote to change state law.

*Composite score formula: 55% average course grade performance + 45% average ELA and math NY state exam performance

NEXT

Part 2: Phase-out proposal

Phase out SHSAT

Offers go to top-performing students

Offers would be made…

Year 1

First to: Top 3% of students from each middle school (~25% of offers)

Then to: Students who qualify through the SHSAT (~75% of offers)

Year 2

First to: Top 5% of students from each middle school (~50% of offers)

Then to: Students who qualify through the SHSAT (~50% of offers)

Year 3

First to: Top 7% of students from each middle school (~90% of offers)

Then to: Non-public students, students new to New York City, and any other student interested in applying to the SHS with a minimum course grade average of 93% (A-). These students would participate in a lottery for any remaining seats. (~10% of offers)
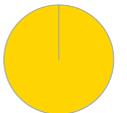
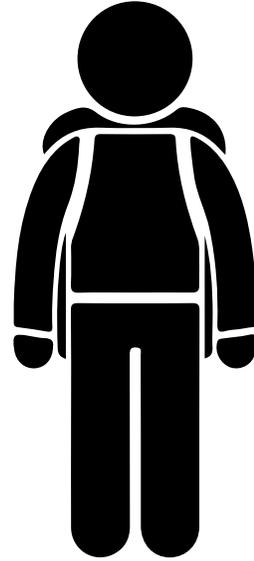**This means that offers will no longer be made based on the SHSAT.**

■ Top Performers

■ SHSAT
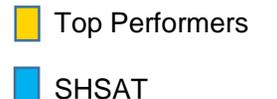
The DOE would calculate each student's middle school rank.
Schools and students would not need to provide any additional information.
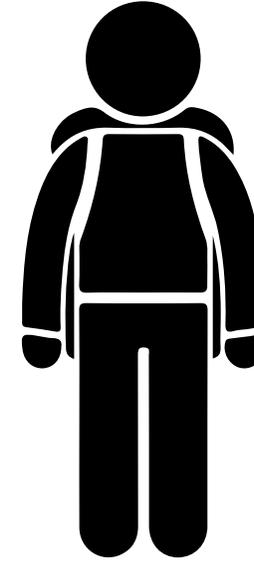
What would this proposal accomplish?

ACADEMICS

Top 7% of middle schoolers have similar academic records to students who receive SHSAT offers
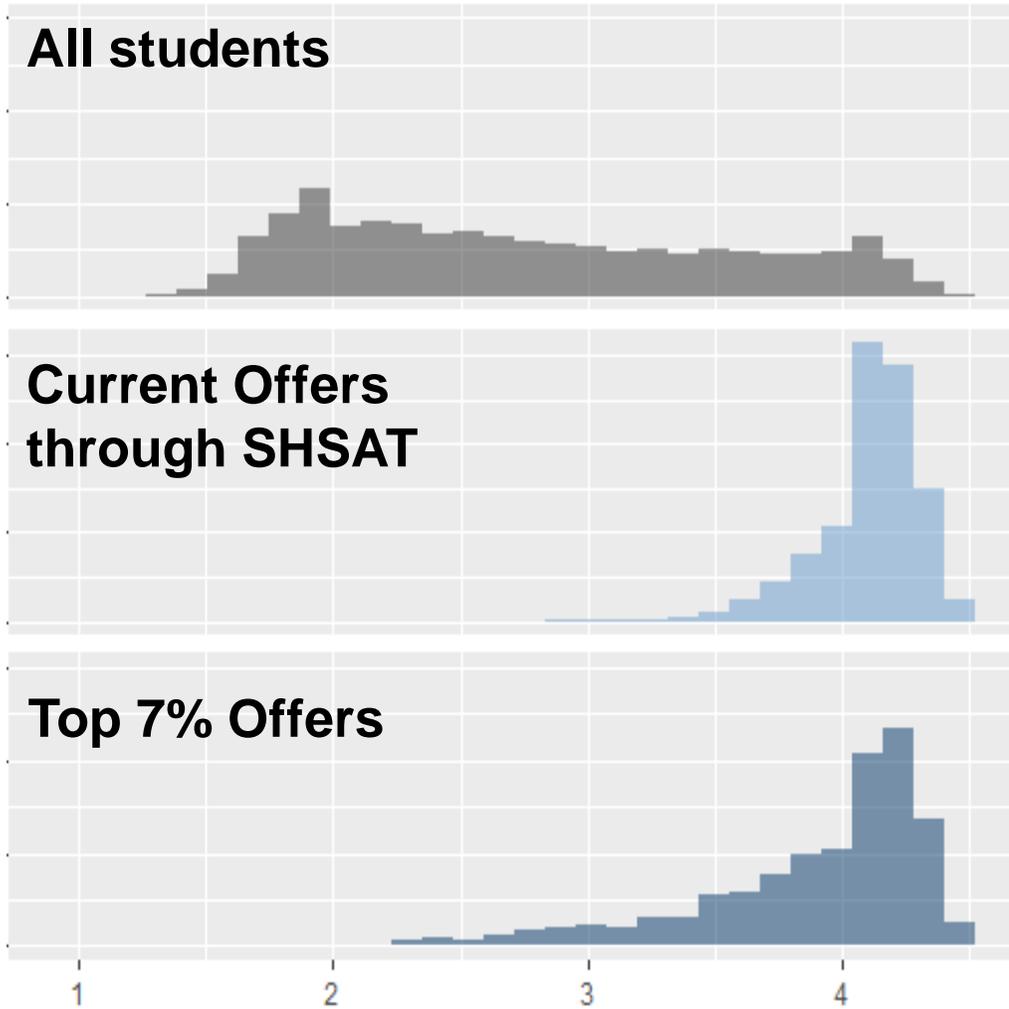
Students with current offers

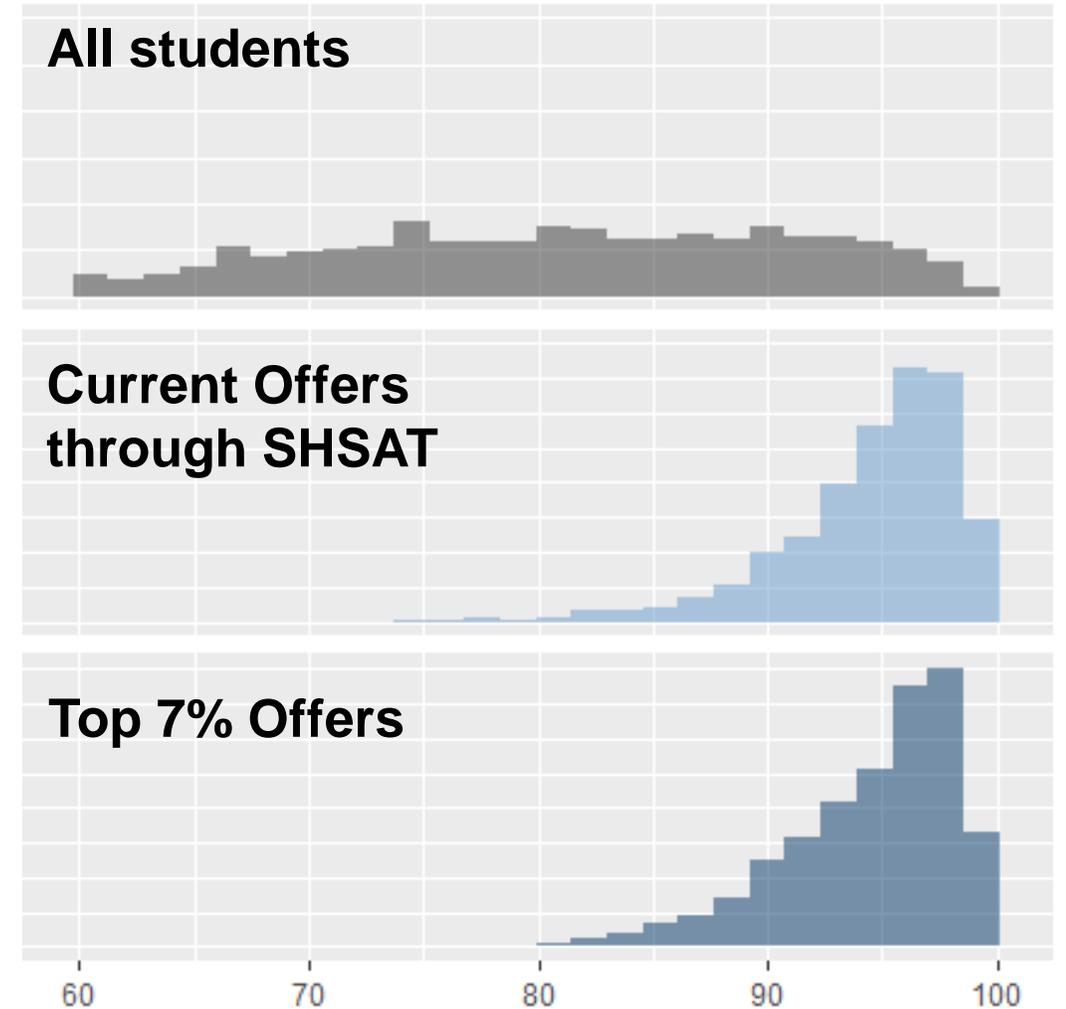- Average GPA: 94%
- Average State exam proficiency level: 4.1

Top 7% of middle schoolers

- Average GPA: 94%
- Average State exam proficiency level: 3.9

Proficiency rating

Average Grades

All students

All students

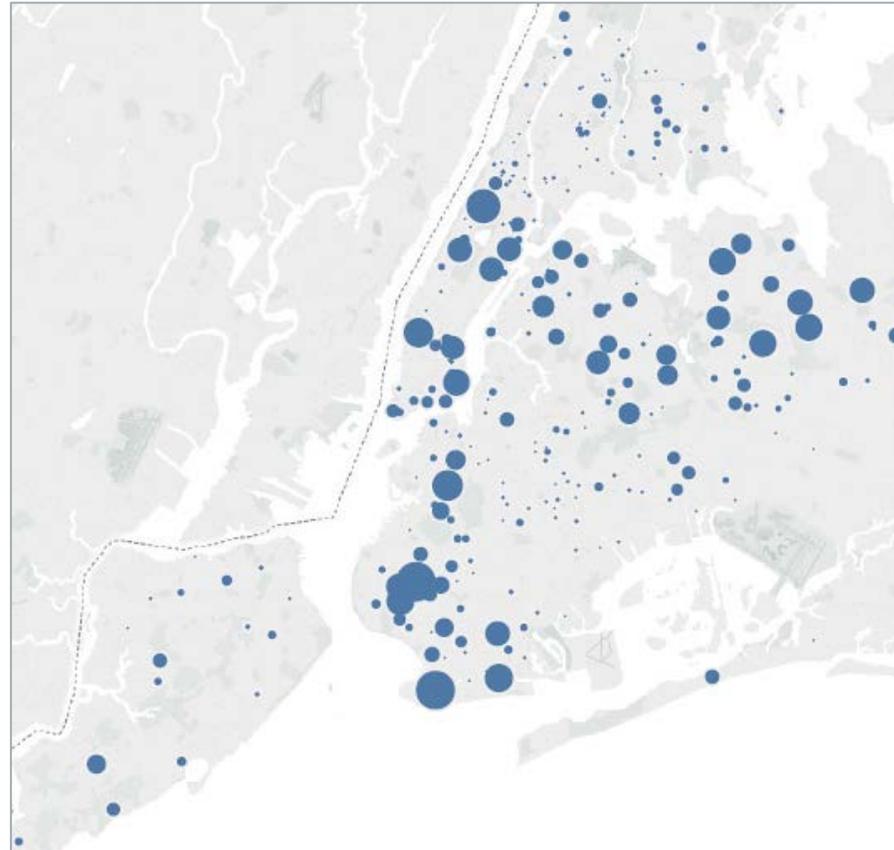Current Offers through SHSAT

Current Offers through SHSAT

Top 7% Offers

Top 7% Offers

The students who currently get offers and the students in the top 7% score similarly on State exams and average grades

ACADEMICS

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GEOGRAPHY

2x

increase in middle school representation

More than 2x

increase in number of Brooklyn schools represented

Current Offers by School

Top 7% Offers by School

Number of Offers:

·	1
○	50
○	100
○	150
○	204
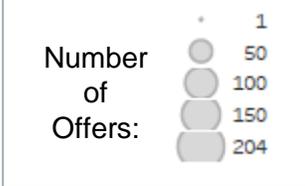
DEMOGRAPHICS

SHS demographics will mirror NYC demographics more closely

36% point increase in offers to Black and Latino students

18% point increase in offers to female students

Racial Demographics

Citywide
- 3% (Other)
- 13% (White)
- 40% (Latino)
- 28% (Black)
- 16% (Asian)

Current Offers
- 13% (Private)
- 4% (Other)
- 24% (White)
- 6% (Latino)
- 3% (Black)
- 50% (Asian)

Top 7% Offers
- 7% (Private)
- 2% (Other)
- 15% (White)
- 27% (Latino)
- 19% (Black)
- 30% (Asian)

Legend:
- Private
- Other
- White
- Latino
- Black
- Asian
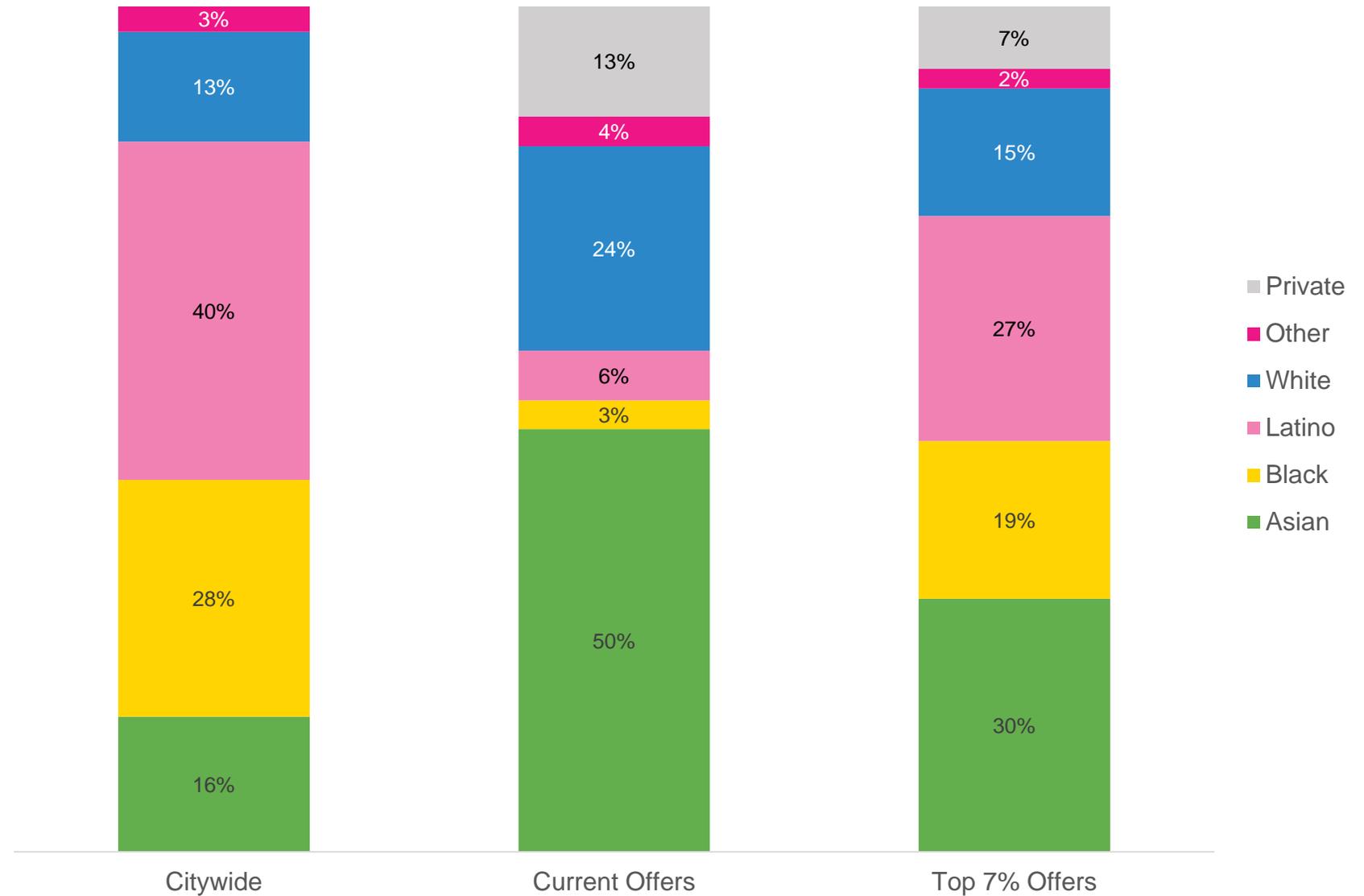
POVERTY

21%
point increase in offers to low-income students

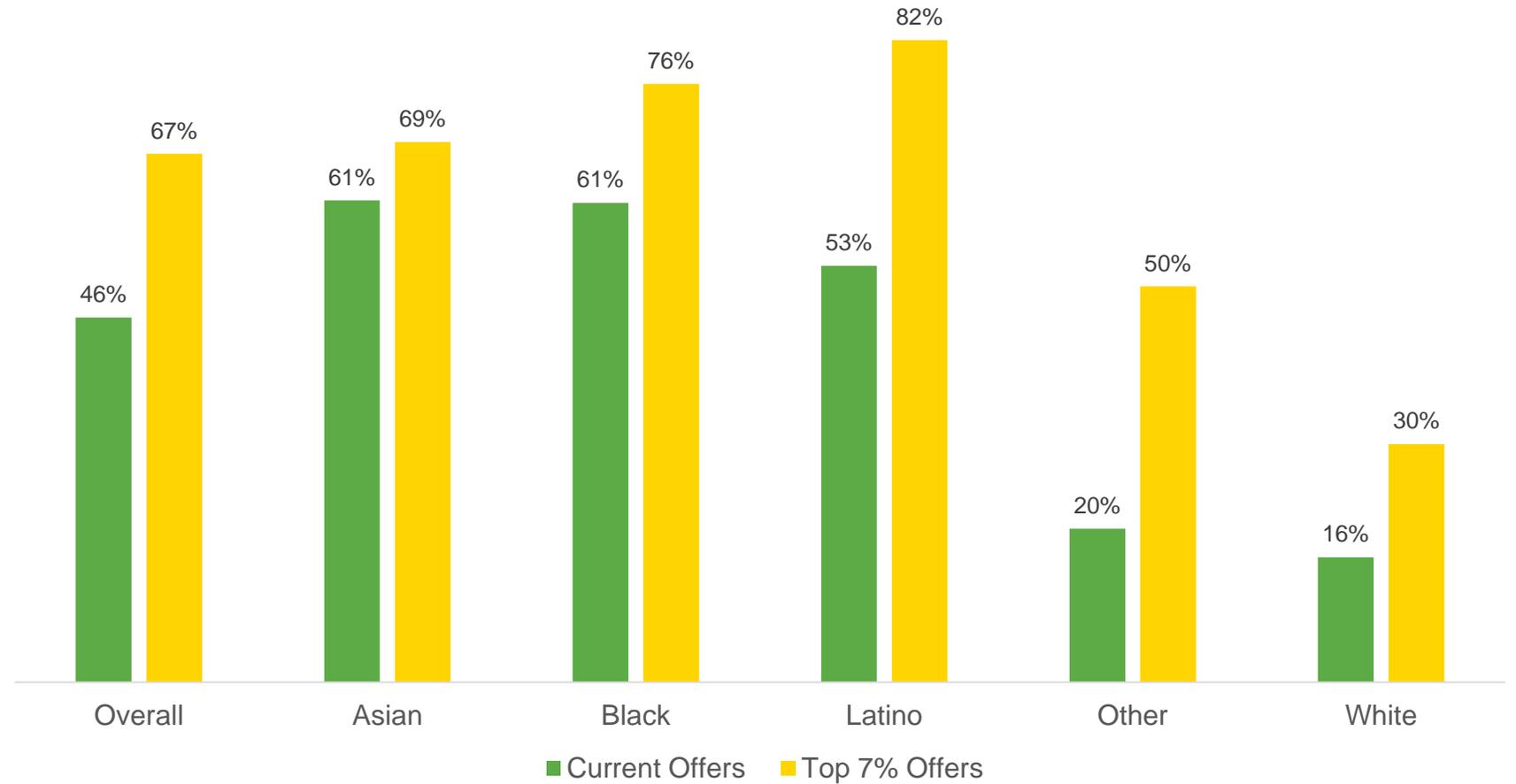**All groups will see an increase in offers to students in poverty**

Percent of Students in Poverty by Race

	Overall	Asian	Black	Latino	Other	White
Current Offers	46%	61%	61%	53%	20%	16%
Top 7% Offers	67%	69%	76%	82%	50%	30%

■ Current Offers ■ Top 7% Offers

Note: Data shown only for public school students whose family income data is available.

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HOME LANGUAGE

More diversity of home languages represented at the SHS

Our modeling shows that we would see an increase in students from the following ethnicities who speak these languages:

Asian
Urdu, Tagalog (Filipino)

African
French, Fulani, Twi, Mandinka, and Soninke

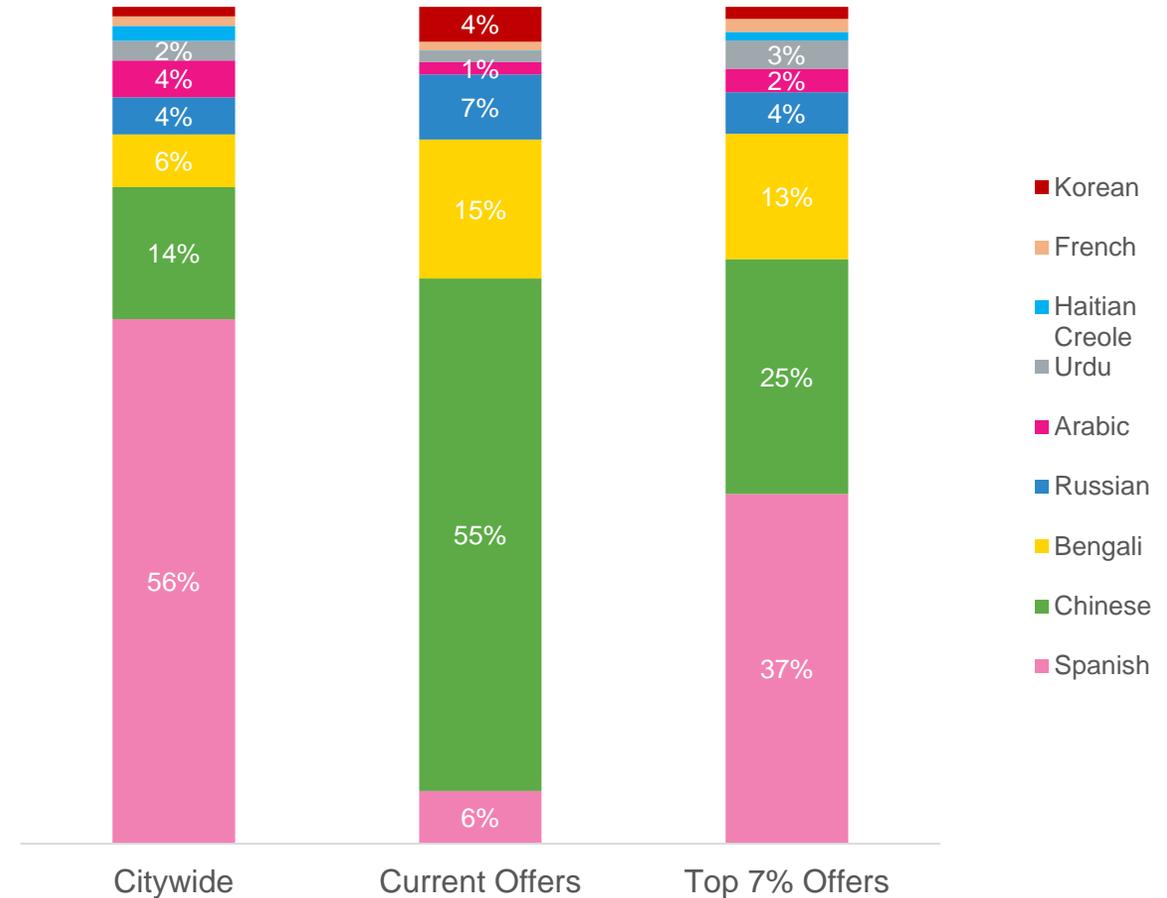## Caribbean/Latino
Haitian Creole, Spanish

Caucasian
Albanian, Polish

Middle Eastern
Arabic

Top Non-English Home Languages

Citywide: 2%, 4%, 4%, 6%, 14%, 56%

Current Offers: 4%, 1%, 7%, 15%, 55%, 6%

Top 7% Offers: 3%, 2%, 4%, 13%, 25%, 37%

Legend: Korean, French, Haitian Creole, Urdu, Arabic, Russian, Bengali, Chinese, Spanish

The non-English home languages represented under this model more closely reflect the home languages of 8th grade students across the city.

WE ARE

Expanding early education

Offering more challenging coursework

Increasing school funding

What else are we doing?
Equity & Excellence for All

- The Equity and Excellence for All agenda is building a pathway to success in college and careers for all students.
  - Our students are starting school earlier, with free, full-day, high-quality education for three-year-olds and four-year-olds through **3-K for All** and **Pre-K for All**.
  - Our schools are strengthening foundational skills and instruction earlier, with **Universal Literacy** and **Algebra for All**.
  - Our schools are also offering students more challenging, hands-on, college and career-aligned coursework with **Computer Science for All** and **AP for All.**
  - We are investing **$350 million more annually** in "Fair Student Funding" for NYC public schools.
- What progress are we making?
  - The **highest-ever graduation rate** – 74.3% of the Class of 2017.
  - The **highest-ever postsecondary enrollment rate** – 57% of the Class of 2016.
  - The **highest-ever college readiness rate** – 64% of graduates in the Class of 2017.
  - City students **continue to improve on ELA and math State exams,** and **outperformed their New York State peers** on ELA State exams for the first time in 2016. Since 2013, the percentage of students proficient in English in New York City has increased by 54%.

Through these initiatives, we are on path to ensure that by 2026, 80% of our students will graduate high school on time and two-thirds of our graduates will be college ready.

What's next?

We're engaging with communities, advocacy groups, and alumni groups across the city to better understand their needs, hear any concerns, and gather their feedback on this proposal.

The New York State legislature must vote and approve changes to SHS admissions in the upcoming legislative session.

Regardless of any changes to state law, we will launch Part 1 of our plan—expanding the Discovery program—in summer 2019.

Questions? Email diversity@schools.nyc.gov