

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Four Upper Manhattan Middle School Students Score High Enough To Gain Admission To Stuyvesant High School After Graduation From SSI's Inaugural Class

New York, NY – The Science Schools Initiative (SSI) is excited to announce the results of its first year-long preparation class. Of the eleven students in SSI's 2008 program year, six gained admission to a Specialized High School and four scored high enough for Stuyvesant High School – the school requiring the highest cutoff score on the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT).

SSI provides a free year-long class to low-income middle school students from Upper Manhattan that teaches the math, reading comprehension, logical reasoning, and test taking skills necessary to succeed on the SHSAT. SSI's classes run every week for a year preceding the SHSAT administration in November.

In a recent visit to their class, Council Member Robert Jackson and Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell, who have supported SSI from its inception, commended the graduates of SSI's inaugural program for their diligence and success and spoke to their current class of twenty-two students on the importance of education and giving back to the community.

Council Member Robert Jackson said, "For many decades, children from Harlem and Washington Heights have been terribly under-represented at the Specialized High Schools. These results show that with competent preparation students from Northern Manhattan will make it into these schools."

SCIENCE SCHOOLS initiative

Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell said, "The results are in. The Science Schools Initiative has provided a boost to students who might not have otherwise had the opportunity to attend some of our city's most selective high schools. While the education system increasingly relies on testing to demonstrate aptitude, SSI proves that children can succeed when given the right resources and support. SSI is an important effort to correct the disparity in minority enrollment at our prestigious secondary schools."

SSI was founded in 2006 by Stuyvesant alumni Darren Guez and Michael Mascetti. SSI's mission is to increase the number of low-income and minority students at New York City's Specialized Science High Schools – Stuyvesant High School, Bronx High School of Science, and Brooklyn Technical High School – the three elite high schools considered the crown jewels of New York City's public school system for over a hundred years.

For more information you can email SSI at contact_us@scihighinitiative.org.
