

## FACT SHEET

### Founding

- Purpose: to give children from low-income families exceptional preparation in the math, reading comprehension, logical reasoning, and test taking skills necessary to be competitive on the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) and have a real chance of academic success at the Specialized High Schools.
- Founded in 2006 by Specialized Science High School alumni in response to the enduring scarcity of low-income and minority students at Stuyvesant, Bronx Science, and the other Specialized High Schools.
- Registered as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in Spring 2007.
- Welcomed our inaugural class in Fall 2007.

### Admission Criteria

- Students are invited to test for the Initiative based on recommendations from their middle school principals, standardized math and reading test scores, and eligibility for free or reduced price school lunch.

### 2009-2010 Students

- 53 completed the year-long program representing eight middle schools in Upper Manhattan and the South Bronx.
- A Diverse Student Body: 13% African-American; 23% Asian-American; 58% Hispanic; 6% White.

### Saturday Classes

- Meet at a Columbia Medical School building at 10:00 am.
- Last three hours.
- Tutors are young professionals and graduate students who range in age from 23 to 28. All tutors are alumni of the Specialized Science High Schools.
- Small class sizes.

### Results

- In our inaugural year (2007-2008), six of eleven Initiative students were accepted into one of the Specialized High Schools.
- In the second year (2008-2009), eleven of eighteen students were accepted into one of the Specialized High Schools.
- In the third year (2009-2010), twenty-three of fifty-three Initiative students were accepted into one of the Specialized High Schools.

### Contact Information

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Twenty-Three of Fifty-Three Upper Manhattan Students from the Science Schools Initiative Admitted to Specialized High Schools**

The Science Schools Initiative today reports that nearly one in two students from its free preparation program have been accepted to New York's specialized high schools. Four students scored high enough to attend Stuyvesant High School; 6 to attend the Bronx High School of Science; 7 to attend Brooklyn Technical High School; 3 to attend Brooklyn Latin; and 3 to attend the High School for Math, Science, and Engineering at City College.

Initiative students are drawn from eight middle schools historically underrepresented at the Specialized High Schools. Results from the October 2010 SHSAT were released a week ago. At one middle school, Initiative students counted for 4 of the 6 students admitted.

The Initiative prepares promising seventh grade students nominated by their middle school principals for the Specialized High School Admissions Test. The motivated students who enroll in the Initiative pledge to participate in the three-hour preparation class nearly every Saturday for a year preceding the test and volunteer for additional homework for the duration of the course. Instruction is focused on algebra and geometry skills, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and logical reasoning. The classes are held at classrooms donated by Columbia Medical School.

Founded four years ago by Specialized Science High School alumni in response to the enduring scarcity of low-income and minority students at Stuyvesant, Bronx Science, and the other Specialized High Schools, the Science Schools Initiative was founded to give these students a real chance at academic success.