

Community Education Council District 8
Resolution in Support of the Opening of The SHA Academy
Date: May 14, 2025

Whereas, Community Education Council District 8 is committed to expanding high-quality educational opportunities for all students within our district, including access to secondary education that reflects the needs, voices, and identities of our families; and

Whereas, the Throggs Neck community, which is part of District 8, currently faces a shortage of accessible, inclusive, and innovative high school options, with no current NYCPS school offering a full 6–12 continuum in this geographic area; and

Whereas, families in Throggs Neck and surrounding neighborhoods have historically transferred their children to parochial and private institutions after 8th grade due to a lack of comprehensive public high school choices, creating barriers for local public school continuity and community connection; and

Whereas, The SHA Academy, where everyone is seen, heard, and acknowledged, proposes a 6–12 school model that centers student voice, equity, and inclusion under the guiding mission that “everyone is seen, heard, and acknowledged,” with academic focuses in Financial Literacy, Emergency Medicine, Mental Health, and Music Performance; and

Whereas, the SHA Academy uniquely prioritizes parent engagement through its Parent Plus+ model, which elevates families as partners in instruction, guest educators, and aspiring professionals supported through workforce development, certification pathways, and leadership training; and

Whereas, the SHA Academy also presents a strong focus on special education compliance and services for multilingual learners, incorporating co-teaching models, assistive technology, career exposure, and student-led IEP advocacy, all of which are aligned with District 8’s goals for inclusive and forward-thinking instruction; and

Whereas, New York City Public Schools would benefit from a model school like The SHA Academy that actively integrates student civic participation, college and career readiness, teacher wellness and growth, and the empowerment of parents and alumni into the culture and daily operations of the school;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that Community Education Council District 8 formally supports the development and approval of The SHA Academy as a 6–12 school in District 8; and

Be it further resolved, that the Council urges NYCPS and the New York State Education Department to prioritize the approval and timely launch of The SHA Academy in the Throggs Neck community to fill a longstanding gap in comprehensive and innovative secondary education.