



Dr. Juliette Pennyman, Superintendent of Schools

For Immediate Release

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Top Hudson City School District Graduating Seniors Eligible for Direct Admission to SUNY and CUNY Schools

Program, Starting in 2025, Expands and Eases College Access Without Needing to Apply

HUDSON, N.Y., July 15, 2024 – The Hudson City School District is expanding access to college by participating in New York State’s Direct Admission Program, which will enable Hudson High School seniors in the top 10% of their class to be offered acceptance, without application, to State University of New York and City University of New York campuses.

High school seniors during 2024-2025 who will enter college in Fall 2025 are eligible for the program’s inaugural year. The Hudson City School District is one of a handful of school districts statewide asked to participate in this initial grouping.

“The Hudson City School District’s goal is to equip students for college, careers and life, and participation in the SUNY/CUNY Direct Admission Program provides access to top-quality educational opportunities,” Pennyman said. “Our elite students’ hard work will be rewarded with another pathway to explore their futures, maximize their potential and attain their long-term personal and professional goals.”

New York’s State Education Department (NYSED), which announced the program, cited research that suggests high-achieving students sometimes do not apply to highly selective higher education institutions because they believe they will not be admitted – even though they would have been accepted and ultimately thrived. Under the Direct Admission Program, which NYSED said is effective in other states, students who graduate in the top 10% of their high school class and meet college readiness standards are accepted to participating colleges – no application required.

While the Direct Admission Program at SUNY will be new, it expands an existing CUNY program, with the goal of further extending opportunity to students of all backgrounds. The programs will increase equity for students and retain the best and brightest within New York State and its higher education institutions, ultimately creating an even more skilled workforce in the state, the State Education Department said.

“Access to higher education has the potential to transform the lives of young New Yorkers and change the trajectory of a student’s life,” Gov. Kathy Hochul said when she announced the program during her State of the State Address in January. “Through these bold initiatives, we are taking critical steps toward ensuring every New York student can continue their education, build their professional career and pursue their dreams.”

Further information will be announced about the Hudson City School District’s participation in the program as updates become available.