CSA PUBLIC STATEMENT  
May 10th, 2019

RE: Assembly Standing Committee on Education Public Hearing: Specialized High Schools

At CSA we believe that all students should benefit from diverse and inclusive classrooms. We believe that our children, the future leaders of our democracy, must experience diversity at an early age, and we believe that all schools should have at their core a culture of inclusiveness. The Executive Leadership Institute, a not-for-profit organization affiliated with CSA, promotes that culture through professional development training, and this critical issue has been a passionate topic of discussion among our members for years.

It’s become common knowledge that New York City schools are among the most segregated public schools in the country, and the inequities within our system must be addressed.

There are of course many possible approaches to resolve these historical inequities, and our members, this city’s school leaders, must always be included in the dialogue to diversify our schools. Let’s always remind ourselves that it is our school leaders who face the critical task of implementing new plans and policies, as well as assuaging the fear and concerns of those who oppose them.

Successful integration requires building cooperation and respect within our school communities, and our school leaders, the finest school leaders in this nation, are ready and prepared for that task. They must be given the time and resources necessary to educate and align their communities, to communicate the true value of integration, and to create diverse and inclusive classrooms for all students.

At CSA, we believe we must continue to engage in these challenging conversations and take thoughtful action to make “Equity and Excellence for All” a reality throughout our entire school system. We look forward to our continuing collaboration with city and state officials on this critical topic, including our active participation in the City Council’s Specialized High School Task Force.