

The audience for our issues and solutions keeps growing!

Below are examples from the summer of 2017 of how David Rubel Associates (DRA) education related policy research is being used in government circles and receiving strong coverage in the media:

- ✚ When it comes to advocacy and policy for New York City public school children receiving special education services, the New York Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE) is the number one place to go. I am gratified to see that the just released [CCSE 2015-16 Annual Report](#) discussed the importance of my research on IEP students and top ranked high schools.

As a result of these efforts, the number of students with disabilities enrolled at 25 top high schools in 2015-16 increased 96% from 2012, to 1,059 students. (The schools do not include the Specialized High Schools, which admit students solely on the basis of their score on the Specialized High School Admissions Test [SHSAT] and which do not have set-asides.) According to a report by education consultant David Rubel, 10 of these schools now offer team teaching classes in the four major academic subjects. The selective schools with the highest percentage of students with IEPs were New York City Lab School, Professional Performing Arts High School, Leon Goldstein High School, Baruch College Campus High School and Manhattan Hunter Science High School. (For David Rubel's report, see Appendix 13).

Problems remain, however. As previously discussed, some schools lack trained staff to provide students with disabilities with the services they need. In addition, even with DOE's set asides, students with IEPs account for less than 2% of enrollment at four of the selective high schools (not including specialized high schools). And while the number of students with IEPs has increased at the schools, Mr. Rubel has estimated that approximately 2,000 additional students with IEPs have test scores high enough for the selective schools but are not attending them.

- ✚ On May 10th, the Bronx based Norwood News published an [investigative reporting article](#) on my NYC-DOE Screened High Schools Equity Discussion Paper. A research finding highlighted in the article is now being used by the Bronx and Brooklyn Borough Presidents *Gifted and Talented Education and Specialized High Schools Task Force*.

"Additionally, the lack of excellent screened schools in The Bronx is part of the backdrop for this issue. Screened schools serve a far larger number of students than the NYCSHS and none of the top 50 screened schools are located in the Bronx. For instance, a Bronx student is given lower priority than a Manhattan student for the top Manhattan schools because of the DOE's policy of giving priority to students closer to home. Segregation, already present in NYC schools, is intensified by this approach."

- ✚ On June 25th, the New York Post had a large investigative piece on the Common Core Algebra Regents exam on page 2 of the Sunday paper. The [article](#) included first time media coverage of my research showing a devastating link between the New York State Common Core 8th Grade Math Exam test scores, the Algebra Regents requirement and the possible drop in the statewide graduation rate beginning in 2018.

"But David Rubel, a consultant to city parochial schools that award Regents diplomas, foresees a crisis. Last year, 11,340 more students failed Regents Algebra exams than in 2014, he found. Meanwhile, the number of students who failed eighth-grade state math exams has tripled from 14,000 in 2012 to 44,483 since Common Core exams in grades 3 to 8 were introduced. 'I think you have a storm warning,' Rubel said. 'That's a huge number of kids not on track to graduate.'"

- ✚ On August 27th, the New York Post ran an article showing that the just released 2017 NYS 8th Grade Math scores should have State and City education departments worried. For the fifth year in a row, thousands more 8th Graders are entering high school not on track to graduate.

The numbers pose a potential crisis because the Class of 2018 will be the first required to take the tougher Common Core Algebra 1 Regents exam to graduate. The new test replaced an exam that was less rigorous. "While we're all celebrating, let's acknowledge some real serious problems here," said David Rubel, an education-policy consultant. "To what extent can high schools help these students master first-year algebra and pass the exam?"