

Educational Opportunity and Enrichment Programs

The Equity Team has compiled a list of free educational opportunity programs that provide academic support, enrichment activities, mentoring, and preparation for high school admissions for low-income and underrepresented students. We encourage parents/guardians to check program websites over the summer as some application deadlines are in the fall. Please visit the [Equity page](#) to learn more. If you need assistance with the application process, contact the [Equity team](#).

1. [APEX for Youth](#): Apex provides academic enrichment, mentoring and test prep for AAPI students
2. [Baruch College STEP Academy](#): The Baruch College STEP (Science and Technology Entry Program) Academy is a New York State Education Department-funded pre-college program for middle and high school students interested in pursuing careers in the STEM professions. The program invites eligible students to participate in workshops and enrichment courses in math, science, SAT, and college preparatory workshops. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at baruchstep@gmail.com. Application deadline is typically in early June.
3. [Bank Street College Liberty LEADS](#): Liberty LEADS at Bank Street College is a New York City-based high school completion and college access program that has served more than 1,700 students between 5th and 12th grade since 1989. Founded to empower underrepresented youth, our program makes an impact in the lives of students every day by helping them attain higher education, embrace leadership engagement, and create a positive future for themselves and others.
4. [Breakthrough New York](#): A free program that prepares low-income students to succeed in middle school, high school, and college. It is a ten-year program that starts the summer before 7th grade. Students apply in 6th grade.
5. [Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons Summer & Youth Programs](#): The objective of these program opportunities offered through the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs is to help facilitate a pipeline for underrepresented minority and/or economically disadvantaged students who are interested in the fields of research, science, medicine, and related health professions.
6. [Double Discovery Center at Columbia University](#): DDC accepts students who are first-generation and/or meet low-income federal guidelines; have a school attendance rate of at least 90%; and attend a DDC partner school OR live in the Morningside, Manhattanville, Harlem, or Washington Heights areas. Students apply in 9th grade.

7. [LaGuardia Portfolio Mentors](#): A free portfolio prep program (materials not included) for middle school students who plan to apply to art high schools in NYC. Members of underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply.
8. [NYC Mentors](#): Connects middle school student with older peers to guide, support and mentor them and their families with the NYC high school application process.
9. [PASSNYC \(free or low cost SHSAT prep\)](#)
10. [Oliver Scholars Program](#): Prepares high-achieving Black and Latino students from underserved New York City communities for success at top independent schools and colleges. We provide crucial support for our Scholars so they can realize their full potential and ultimately give back to the city, the nation, and the world. For rising 7th graders. Students are nominated by teachers beginning in September.
11. [TEAK Fellowships](#): A free NYC-based program that helps talented students from low-income families achieve their potential. Through intensive after school and summer classes, TEAK prepares middle school students to get into the nation's most selective high schools and colleges. TEAK's strong support system ensures that students thrive in their high schools and graduate from college, ready to pursue their professional goals and positively impact the world.
12. [Bigs & Littles NYC Mentoring Program](#): Founded in 1902, Bigs & Littles NYC Mentoring strives to transform the lives of children through one-to-one mentoring, while strengthening entire families in hardship.
13. [SEO Scholars](#): A free, eight-year, academic program that gets low-income public high school students to and through college. Students apply in 8th grade.
14. [Prep for Prep](#): Program for academically gifted African American, Latino, and Asian American students who are also low-income. Prep for Prep helps students enroll and thrive in premier independent schools (commonly known as private schools) in New York City and boarding schools across the Northeast. Students apply in 5th, 6th or 7th grade.
15. [A Better Chance](#): Recruits, places, and supports students of color at more than 200 independent day, boarding, and high-performing public schools. Students apply in 4th or 7th grade.