



**SCHOLARS**  
STRATEGY NETWORK

## **Mamdani Should Focus on Diversity and Enrichment Over ‘Gifted and Talented’**

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With all eyes on New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani, we'd like to propose a resolution for his first year. The city's gifted and talented (G&T) program **has long been trumpeted as a way to retain middle-class** students in the city's public schools. But the program enrolls only 18,000 students, or a mere 2% of the city's children. The program is also **highly segregated** – with its disproportionately white, Asian, and affluent population – and doesn't reflect the diversity of the city's many communities.

As two academics **who have spent over a decade studying** school choice and educational policies including in NYC, interviewing hundreds of parents about their school choices, we know that there are more effective and equitable ways for Mamdani's newly-appointed schools chancellor to serve the city's schoolchildren.