

HCHS/Hunter College High School // Fall 2026 Admissions overview
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HCHS is Hunter College High School.
NOTE: THE ONLY ENTRY YEAR FOR HCHS IS 7TH GRADE.
NOTE: HCHS ENTRY IS FOR NYC RESIDENTS ONLY.

Greg's Tutoring NYC's tutoring services are offered to help prepare for the actual HCHS entrance exam. I provide details in a way that students will know the structure of the test, as well as what kinds of questions to expect. With proper preparation, students can be informed, confident, and calm on test day.

HCHS serves students who demonstrate advanced cognitive ability and prepares them to be life-long learners and leaders. They assist in the development of creative, intellectually-curious, and original thinkers who are passionate about learning. HCHS uses the principles of gifted education, including depth, complexity, challenge, enrichment, and acceleration of the curriculum, to meet the needs of intellectually-advanced students.

Admission to HCHS is through a multi-step process. The FOLLOWING DISCUSSION COULD BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE given the dynamics of the past few years. One step in the process is the HCHS Entrance Exam.

The next HCHS Entrance Exam is expected to be given on Fri, January 23, 2026. An official "snow date" or alternate date has not been provided.

NOTE: THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP DATES.
NOTE: HCHS does not rescore exams, reread essays, or reconsider admissions decisions.

The HCHS exam is designed to assess a student's learning. The exam provides HCHS with a sample of a student's skills and knowledge, by assessing their comprehension, as well as their problem solving, analytic, and writing abilities.

The HCHS Entrance Exam traditionally contains three sections: 50 multiple-choice English Language Arts questions, 84 multiple-choice Mathematics questions, and a Writing Assignment. The test is three hours, including the Writing Assignment. Students can do sections and questions in any order during the three hours including going back to previous questions. This exam is on paper and occurs in person on site.

In the multiple-choice Critical Reading portion, a student's reading comprehension will be assessed. Students answer questions about specific reading passages to show their ability to understand, interpret, and analyze a number of types of questions and styles of writing. Questions are provided for five or six reading passages of varying lengths. Passages reflect a range of writing styles from different time periods. Questions reflect a range of question styles, and answer choices vary in style too. This is not just summary understanding and is not memorization but instead requires critical analysis and insight using literary devices. Furthermore, assessment and comprehension is not only considered of the passage but of the questions and choices.

In the multiple-choice Mathematics Section, a student's problem-solving ability is assessed. Students are asked to solve a variety of problems, including multi-step ones involving: estimation; computations with fractions, decimals, percents, and integers (including negative numbers); rules of divisibility; simple probability; rate; average; ratio, rates and proportions; time; distance; money; area of shaded regions; perimeter, area, and volume; counting; visual and numerical pattern recognition; two and three dimensional figures including circles; algebra; arithmetic; word problems; sequences and patterns; comparisons; unit conversions; number line; absolute value; expression evaluation; inequalities; mild graphing (histograms, x/y plot); magic squares; visual math; spatial math; and logic.

In 2026, Hunter changed the math to use the ISEE QR and MA sections.

For ELA, topics and concepts include: main idea; characters; setting; tone; vocabulary; inference; metaphors/cliches of phrases; precision; longer passages; poetry; etc. This is a very high level overview. Be assured, actual problems are quite advanced requiring creativity, critical thinking, intellect, and original out-of-the-box problem solving for a passionate self-thinker/learner.

In the Writing Assignment Section, students are assessed by demonstrating the originality, effectiveness, correctness, and use of detail in their writing. Students are asked to write either an essay or a creative piece. Length is usually up to two pages. This requires serious organization skills and live thinking under time pressure. Some years students are given a choice of topics or two essays to write; other years, there is only one topic and one essay.

As mentioned earlier, there is a multi-step admissions process. Traditionally, the first step in the process is vetting students through the use of the NY State ELA and math tests from Grade 5. For Fall 2026 Admissions, the eligibility requirement has been determined to be as follows:

* Criteria 1, for students with NY State Test scores.

BOTH THESE SCORES MUST BE TRUE:

- o 2025 5th grade NY State Math test 500 or higher
- o 2025 5th grade NY State ELA test 486 or higher

OR

* Criteria 2, for students without any NY State Test scores.

ALL THE FOLLOWING MUST BE TRUE:

- o 2025 5th grade NY state exams were not taken
- o A 2024–2025 5th grade standardized exam results of 90th+ percentile in Math
- o A 2024–2025 5th grade standardized exam results of 90th+ percentile in ELA
- o The approved standardized exams include one of ISEE, SSAT, CTP 5, ITBS, Stanford 10, TerraNova3, no MWEA MAP, no ERB Milestones

OR

* Criteria 3, for students without any NY State Test or an above standardized test score.

- o 2025 5th grade NY state exams were not taken
- o A standardized exam listed above was not taken.
- o A 2024–2025 5th grade standardized exam results of 90th+ percentile in Math and ELA
- o Approval from Hunter to use a different standardized exam.

OR

* Criteria 4

- o 2025 5th grade NY state exams were not taken
- o A standardized exam listed above was not taken.
- o Another standardized exam not listed was not approved or taken.
- o Take one the above exams for entry into grade 7 locally by Friday, December 19
- o Score in the 90th+ percentile.

Hunter will not accept or use report cards or other grade reports to determine eligibility for the 2026 exam.

Those students meeting these requirements are then allowed to take the above mentioned admissions exam. An application must be filled out, paid for, and accepted (NOTE: Hunter is waiving the fee this testing season). To take the test each student is provided a ticket which is required for entry to the exam. The exam will occur in person not online.

FOR THOSE WHO JUST MISSED THE ABOVE SCORES? Hunter is considering that some additional students may be selected to take the exam; Hunter will determine this by January 10, 2026 if a student meets certain criteria and submits an Academic Insights Profile. See <https://www.hunterschools.org/just-missed-the-score> for details.

Recent historical testing requirements overview:

* For Fall 2025–2026 required the 2024 Grade 5 NY State exam information to be 474+ in ELA and 496+ in Math.

* For Fall 2024–2025 required the 2023 Grade 5 NY State exam information to be 492+ in ELA and 479+ in Math.

* For Fall 2023–2024 required either a) the 2022 Grade 5 NY State exam information to be 623+ in ELA and 622+ in Math or b) no 2022 NY state exams were taken and 95+ in BOTH core Math and ELA in a 6th grade marking period prior to Feb 1, 2023.

* For Fall 2022–2023 state exams were not used and instead the eligibility requirement was determined as follows: at least one marking period grade of 95+ in BOTH core Math and ELA in a 6th grade marking period prior to March 1, 2022 AND could not have a marking period grade in core Math or English Language Arts (ELA) that was lower than 85.

* The 2021–2022 school year, HCHS required a 2019 Grade 4 NY ELA State Test score of 626 and above and a 2019 Grade 4 NY State Math score of 628 and above. For 2021–2022 it was revealed that Hunter varied this somewhat for students in the Bronx.

- * The 2020–2021 school year the required the Grade 5 NY State exam information to be 627+ in ELA and 628+ in Math.
- * The 2019–2020 admission to HCHS required both the Grade 5 NYS ELA and Math State Test scores to be 625 and above.
- * In the past, students who did not take the NY State Tests must either already have a Grade 5 score from a standardized test that HCHS accepts, or, they must take a pre-Qualifying Exam provided by HCHS (NOTE: there will be no Qualifying Exam this testing season, but see Criteria 3 and 4 above).

After students take the exam, scoring occurs. Hunter is not totally clear on this, but the general understanding is that the multiple choice sections are computer-scored. The total of the math and ELA is then rank ordered and only around the top 500 scorers will have their essays read by a panel of HCHS English faculty. The students who write the top approximately 175 essays are selected for admission to HCHS and sent offers.

HCHS also maintains a wait list pool of 20 to 30 students. If admitted students decline admission or withdraw from HCHS prior to the beginning of 7th grade, students from the wait list will be offered admission at HCHSs discretion. No students will be admitted from the wait list after 7th grade.

HCHS Admissions DATES AND TIMELINE!!! (Be aware that things are subject to change)

- * ONLINE REGISTRATION normally begins around mid-September
Via <https://www.ravenna-hub.com/login>
This school year registration opens Oct 2025.
- * The registration DEADLINE is normally around mid-November.
This school year registration will end 3pm Friday, December 5, 2025.
This was EXTENDED to 3pm Friday, December 12, 2025.
Their online system will SHUT DOWN at that point, no exceptions!
- * QE takes place
This is for some non-NYC residents intending to be in NYC next school year.
This is for some NYC residents who do not have Grade 5 NYS state ELA or Math scores.
The DEADLINE to apply for the QE is 4pm on THERE-IS-NO-QE-THIS-YEAR.
The QE application is a separate application than the HCHS one. DO BOTH!
The QE is on THERE-IS-NO-QE-THIS-YEAR, or, THERE-IS-NO-QE-THIS-YEAR.
But see Criteria 3 and 4 above.
- * Your child's school MUST SUBMIT TEST SCORES (if needed) and Candidate Lists to HCHS
Your school will do this by TO-BE-ANNOUNCED.
Keep on the middle school's back to GET THIS DONE ON TIME!
- * ADMISSIONS EXAM TICKETS were normally provided mid-December.
This will likely occur this year during January (about a week before the exam).
- * THE TEST DATE is normally mid-January.
This school year testing is expected to be on Friday, January 23, 2026.
The snow date is NO-SNOW-DATE-THIS-YEAR.
There is no make up date. Your child will get an excused absence.
- * We believe the TEST LOCATION this year will include multiple sites:
HCHS at 94th St. between Park and Madison Avenues
Hunter College – West Building at 68th Street and Lexington Avenue
Hunter College – North Building at 69th Street, between Park and Lexington Avenues
Silberman School of Social Work at HC at 3rd Avenue and E. 119th Street
(maybe Bronx Community College, Medgar Evers College, and York College TBA)
Do a trial run to the location on your ticket. Also, have a Plan B.
- * RESULTS are normally provided early March, expected by Friday, March 27, 2026.
Five years ago's June exam results occurred late July.
Four years ago's May's exam results were provided in June.
Three year ago's April's exam results were provided in May.
Two years January exam results were provided in March.
Last year's exam results was expected to be provided by March 29, 2025.
You usually have one week to accept.

* "Hunter Day" on-campus orientation is a few days after offer letters are sent.
This year the date for Hunter Day is CURRENTLY-UNKNOWN. It might be virtual.

All your correspondence with HCHS is done via email.
Ensure that the email address you provide to HCHS is working and reliable!

Greg's Tutoring NYC, Our Mission, Approach, And Who we are

Greg's Tutoring NYC puts education first. We believe in impacting young students' educational goals, setting high academic standards that meet the needs of all children, challenging and rigorous education, better schools in every borough, expansion of educational opportunities, fighting and reversing inequity in education, integrated schools, and providing services to the disabled, impoverished, and those with mental health concerns. No child should be at an educational disadvantage. Every child's academic and emotional needs can and should be met. It's vital to provide uplifting empowerment and ensure students are aware, engaged citizens yielding systemic compassion, empathy, and unity. We graciously and responsibly give back to the educational community through volunteerism, providing education-based opportunities and services to those otherwise unable, and holding NYC to their commitments.

The intellectual, social, and emotional growth of students is of the utmost importance and focus to us. We provide an exceptional atmosphere that is friendly and enriching.

We inspire and radiate our own love of learning. We approach learning with the tenet "Thinking is key." Problems don't exist in isolation, therefore in addition to delving into how to solve the problem at hand, it's as essential that we also explore topics, concepts, insights, techniques, and their underlying reasoning. Model solutions are important to understand, and we work with students on those, but problem solving goes beyond the rote, allowing us to provide for a much deeper analysis. We guide students' skill growth whereas they are adaptable across new and novel situations no matter what is thrown at them, even the unfamiliar.

Our sessions are always challenging. Always thought provoking. Always posing intriguing questions. Always problem solving. Always exploring and using what you know in new ways. Always casual and organic. Always enriching. Always capturing the fascination, wonder, and joy of learning and discovery!

We are not a student factory. We tackle things methodically. Our students are shown an appreciation for the material and its subtleties. Experimenting is always supported. We do not just help but we significantly strengthen a student's skills, knowledge, and approach. Terminology, listening, and communication skills are fostered.

With maturity, growth, fluidity, conceptual understanding, personal accomplishment, and confidence, there is mastery. Through organized stimulation of numeracy and literacy, we support self-discovery, questioning, creativity, motivation, and initiative as tools to last a student's lifetime.

Our approach ensures fundamental core material is solid. It is customized, concept-oriented, feedback-driven, and reinforcing, therefore establishing incremental and iterative learning. When reinforced with problem analysis and strategy, the results provide an efficient cognitive toolkit designed to help your student learn material, retain what they have learned, improve thinking skills, solve unfamiliar problems, be prepared, remain calm and confident, and score higher.

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