Dear [ELECTED OFFICIAL]:

As the parent of a student at P.S. 334, The Anderson School, I am extremely concerned by the August 2019 recommendation from the School Diversity Advisory Group (SDAG) to eliminate Gifted and Talented (G&T) programs in New York City. The Anderson School parent community stands in strong support of increasing diversity and ensuring equitable access across NYC public schools. However, eliminating our school (or any other G&T program) is <u>NOT</u> the answer. As my elected representative, I ask you to take an **<u>unequivocal public stance against this recommendation</u>**.

Children from all backgrounds should have access to advanced coursework and academically challenging material. To that end, programs serving accelerated learners should exist in many forms, including stand-alone schools, programs within district schools, and pull out services. In addition, opt-out G&T testing for all Pre-K students would immediately change G&T program demographics to more closely resemble those of our city. For a diverse urban setting serving 1.1 million students across 32 community school districts, no single system will be appropriate for all children, and a broad stroke to eliminate G&T is not the answer.

Among the 45 SDAG members endorsing the elimination of a program enrolling thousands of students across the city, **<u>NONE</u>** were parents or school leaders specifically there to represent G&T programs. As my elected representative, please urge Mayor de Blasio to include parents of accelerated learners in these important discussions.

Our parents, teachers, and administration at P.S. 334 stand ready to assist in efforts to increase diversity and ensure equitable access to our school and other programs serving accelerated learners. I implore Mayor de Blasio and Chancellor Carranza to include G&T parent voices in this important discussion. **As my elected representative, please advocate for our citywide public school, and strongly reject the recommendation to eliminate G&T programs from New York City.**

Sincerely,