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Scholarships Help Low-Income Students Attend Private High Schools

By Tzu-Hui Tai / New York | 2026-08-01 02:24 ET



State Assemblymember Ron Kim presents a citation to a Student Sponsor Partners scholarship recipient, joined by her family and representatives of RISE Now, SSP and community partners. (Courtesy of Ron Kim's office)

State Assemblymember Ron Kim and the nonprofit RISE Now announced on July 31 that they are partnering with Student Sponsor Partners (SSP) on a high school scholarship initiative. The program will help eligible low-income students attend 23 partner private high schools in New York City. Representatives from community groups including Access Future

and Grayson Culture & Youth, along with this year's scholarship recipients, attended the event.

Kim said he hopes collaboration with SSP and community partners will give more students from diverse backgrounds access to educational resources, ease the burden on their families, and create more opportunities for further study.

According to the organizers, SSP provides tuition assistance, mentoring, and college and career planning. Applicants must meet household-income requirements, demonstrate a certain level of academic achievement, and show a willingness to participate in the program.

At the event, organizers introduced this year's two selected students. Selina Jiang of Flushing will begin attending Holy Cross High School this fall, while another student, Luna, will attend Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School. Jiang thanked the community for the educational opportunity and said she hopes to work hard, complete her studies, and become the first person in her family to earn a college degree.

RISE Now president Chris Kui said private high school tuition is a burden for many families. This year, RISE Now and SSP piloted the scholarship initiative, helping two students gain admission to partner high schools. In the future, the organization will use its community network to help more eligible students apply for 2027 scholarships. SSP executive director Debra De Jesus-Vizzi said that in addition to tuition support, the program provides mentors as well as college-admissions and career guidance throughout high school, with the goal of offering students long-term support.