



Parents Pack First-Ever Harlem Education Fair

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*While kids are still immersed in school this year, many parents are looking ahead to next year. NY1's **Cindi Avila** was at an education fair Saturday where families in Harlem debated which school is best for their child.*

Parents did a little homework of their own in Harlem Saturday at the first-ever Harlem Education Fair.

The idea was to let parents know that they do have options when it comes to what school their child attends.

“I think choice is important because we have found some of the public schools are not educating our children at a high level, not all of them, and I think that parents need to know that they don’t need to accept that,” said Natasha Shannon of Harlem Parents United. “They can choose any education choice available to them and that there are many available. That’s the bottom line.”

Dozens of representatives from public, private, and charter schools turned out to educate parents about what kind of education their schools provide.

If turnout is a sign of success, it is clear by the hundreds of parents who packed this 129th Street church that having a choice is something they are definitely interested in.

“A parent always wants more options for their child,” said parent Bongi Doughty. “Especially when it comes to education, you are always looking for the best.”

Doughty’s two daughters are currently in public schools, but she says she came here to find out whether another option would be better for the seven and ten year olds.

“I am just looking for a place where my child can explore education to the fullest, where they have opportunities, where they can be enhanced, enriched,” said Doughty. “I just want a quality place for my children to be educated.”

Parents have to make up their minds rather quickly about what school they want their child to attend, as most applications are due in early April.

- *Cindi Avila*

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