

# THROUGH ASAP, I...

"I had a safe space to talk about and advocate for these issues, which made me realize my own passion for advocating for a community that I have never been more proud to call myself a member of"



"I grew a lot in terms of public speaking, leadership, and my ability to form connections"



"I learned how strong and resilient the community actually is"



"I realized I, too, hold power"



Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) make up 18% of NYC and are the fastest growing racial group. 78% of AAPIs in NYC are also immigrants.

AAPI youth are often left out of dialogues on policies, especially educational policies, that impact their lives. As a result, AAPI youth needs are poorly understood and addressed, rendering them invisible. This can contribute to critical academic barriers, and AAPI student experiences of race- and ethnicity-related bullying, isolation, and mental health issues.

**We envision a world with empowered, self-aware, and engaged AAPI youth, where their voices are not only heard, but also incorporated into decisions that impact their lives.**

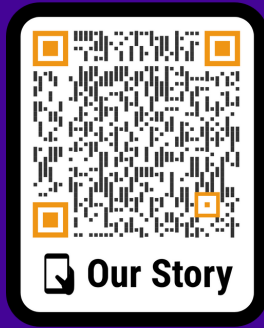
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# Asian American Student Advocacy Project



# ABOUT US

- The Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF) has been the nation's only pan-Asian advocacy organization for children and families since 1986. CACF advocates for equity and opportunity for marginalized Asian American and Pacific Islander children and families.
- **CACF also believes in youth voices.**
- In 2004, CACF created the Asian American Student Advocacy Project (ASAP), a youth leadership program for Asian American and Pacific Islander youth in New York City. ASAP provides a space for AAPI young people from across the city to learn about their AAPI identity, their community and history, and the importance of youth voices in policymaking.



# MISSION

Through ASAP, CACF seeks to build a community of AAPI youth whose voices are heard and incorporated in decision-making processes, with the collective power to create positive change, particularly in education, and to address inequities in our public school system.



## ASAP's goal is to activate AAPI youth to...

- be life-long learners and change-makers
- know their self-worth, understand their communities, and feel a sense of belonging
- build more equitable schools, communities, and systems that support all NYC youth



# I JOINED ASAP BECAUSE...

"I want to learn more about the struggles of AAPIs as well as my own identity through my history and community"



"I want to be in a space with other AAPI youth to discuss and advocate for issues that are important to us"

"I believe that youth voices are powerful and should be heard, just as everyone else's"



"I want to be proud of my Asian heritage and use that to help others—not just in the AAPI community, but also in other communities as well"