

OFFICE OF ACCESS AND ENROLLMENT

High Schools and High School Programs

Application, Selection, Notification
2017-2018 School Year
Deadline: December 9, 2016



High School Options: OAE-Managed Programs *

- Selective Enrollment High Schools
- Military Academies
- Magnet High Schools and Programs
- International Baccalaureate (IB) High Schools
- CTE – College and Career Academies
- Other High School Programs

* For all other high schools, see the High School Guide for application information.

HOW TO APPLY

Online Application Process

Online site: apply.cps.edu

- All CPS eighth grade students receive an Eligibility Letter that contains a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to be used for the online site.
- If you are applying to schools with admissions screenings – tests, information sessions, and auditions – you will first **SCHEDULE** the appointments and THEN **APPLY**. Both actions MUST be completed by the December 9th deadline.
- All confirmation pages should be printed and kept in a safe place.

Paper Application Process

- Obtain paper applications from www.cpsoae.org (click 'Apply' and 'Paper Applications').
- Details on how your admissions screenings will be scheduled can be found later in this document, in the sections for each program.

CHANGES TO THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR 2017-2018

New for 2017-2018!

Online Updates to Address and Phone

Last year: All students who wanted to make changes to their address or phone number had to submit a paper Contact Information Modification Form.

New this year: Students who apply online can update their address and telephone number via the online site. Applicants who use paper applications will have to contact the Office of Access and Enrollment to request a paper Contact Information Modification Form.

New for 2017-2018!

Online Changes to School Choices.

Last year: All students who wanted to make changes to their school choices had to submit a paper Application Modification Form.

New this year: Students who apply online can change their school choices via the online site by deleting their application and submitting a new one. Applicants who use paper applications will have to contact the Office of Access and Enrollment to request a paper Application Modification Form.

New for 2017-2018!

Online Notifications

Last year: Notification letters for all students were mailed to parents' homes.

New this year: Notification letters for students who apply online will be posted to their online portal no later than March 3, 2017. (Notification letters for paper applicants will still be mailed to parents' homes. The letters will be MAILED no later than March 3, 2017 – not received.)

New for 2017-2018!

No Early SEHS Scores

Last year: Students who took the Selective Enrollment exam in November could receive their scores before the application deadline.

New this year: There will be no Selective Enrollment test in November. All students will receive their scores with the notification letter that they receive in March 2017.

SELECTIVE ENROLLMENT HIGH SCHOOLS

Selective Enrollment High Schools

- Designed for academically advanced students
- Offer primarily honors and AP courses
- Admissions testing required

Testing Eligibility Requirements

- Students must pre-qualify for the Selective Enrollment High Schools admissions exam, based on their NWEA MAP scores.
- General education students and students with a 504 Plan must score at the 24th percentile or above in reading and math.
- Students with an IEP and students receiving bilingual education services must have percentiles in reading and math that equal 48 or more.

Application Process

- Apply to up to six schools. You do NOT have to apply to the maximum number of schools allowed. If a school is too far from your home, or there are other reasons why you wouldn't accept an offer if you receive one, **DON'T APPLY TO IT.**
- If you apply online, you will schedule the test first and THEN apply. Both actions MUST be completed by the December 9th deadline.
- If you submit a paper application, your test will be scheduled by OAE and you will receive a letter containing the date, time, and location of the test.

The Admissions Exam

- The Selective Enrollment High Schools admissions exam is approximately three hours long (unless the student has an IEP/504 Plan that allows for additional time).
- The exam covers four subject areas: reading comprehension, vocabulary, language arts (grammar), and math word problems.
- Calculators are not allowed (unless this is specified in the accommodations on an IEP).

Selection Process

- Selection is based on a 900-point scale derived from admissions test scores, NWEA MAP scores, and final (cumulative) report card grades.
- Each of these three areas is worth a maximum of 300 points.

Socio-Economic Factors

- The selection process for Selective Enrollment High Schools takes socio-economic characteristics into consideration.
- Each street address falls within one of four tiers. These tiers are used as part of the selection process.
- For details on how the tiers are determined and how they are used in the selection process, visit www.cpsoe.org.

Selection Process

- The first 30% of seats at each school are filled by rank score ONLY.
- Remaining seats are divided equally among the four tiers.
- The top-scoring students in each tier are selected.
- NO sibling preference.
- NO consideration for proximity.

Principal Discretion

- Principal Discretion allows principals of Selective Enrollment High Schools to fill a designated number of seats, outside of the regular selection process.
- The process takes place in March, after the first round of regular selection. Information will be posted at www.cpssoae.org in February.

MILITARY ACADEMIES

Military Academies

- Offer rigorous and relevant college preparatory curriculum.
- Each academy focuses on a different branch of the military.
- There is no expectation for students to enter the military after graduation. Specific opportunities are provided for leadership, teamwork, and service.

Eligibility Requirements

- Students must pre-qualify for the Military Academies application process, based on their NWEA MAP scores.
- Students must have must have percentiles in reading and math that equal 48 or more.

Application Process

- Apply to up to four schools.
- Attendance at ONE information session is required (even if you apply to more than one Military Academy).
- If you are applying online, you will schedule the Information Session first and THEN apply.
- If you submit a paper application, go to www.chicagoJROTC.com or www.cpsoae.org for a list of Information Sessions and attend the session of your choice.

Selection Process

- Students are selected based on a two-part questionnaire and an essay completed at the required Information Session, along with their NWEA MAP scores and final grades from seventh grade.
- Students are given points based on their seventh grade final grades (150 points), NWEA scores (150 points), the two-part assessment (50 points for each part), and the essay (100 points), for a maximum total of 500 points.

MAGNET SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

Magnet Schools and Programs

Offer specialty programs in areas including fine and performing arts, engineering, and agricultural sciences.

Eligibility Requirements

- Students must pre-qualify to participate in the selection process for magnet schools and programs, based on their NWEA MAP.
- General education students and students with a 504 Plan must score at the 24th percentile or above in reading and math.
- Students with an IEP and students receiving bilingual education services must have percentiles in reading and math that equal 48 or more.

Eligibility Requirements - Exceptions

Von Steuben has two programs – a Science program and a Scholars program.

The **Scholars** program requires minimum percentile of 60 in both reading and math, and a minimum GPA of 3.0. In addition, applicants must submit teacher recommendations and an essay. For additional information, see Von Steuben's website, www.vonsteuben.org (click 'About' and 'Admissions').

Application Process

- Apply to up to eight schools/programs
- Only one magnet school/program has a required admission screening – Senn’s fine and performing arts program requires applicants to participate in an audition/portfolio review.
- If you apply to Senn online, you will schedule the audition/portfolio review first and THEN apply.
- If you apply to Senn via paper application, you will visit sennarts.org and click “Admissions” for instructions on scheduling your audition/portfolio review.

Selection Process

For most Magnet High Schools and Programs, students are randomly selected through a computerized lottery. Siblings are accepted first. There are two exceptions:

Senn Fine Arts Program:

Eligible students are selected through an audition and/or portfolio review process.

Von Steuben Scholars Program:

Eligible students are selected based on test scores, GPA, teacher recommendations, and an essay. (Go to www.vonsteuben.org for information.)

Socio-Economic Factors

- The selection process for most magnet schools takes socio-economic characteristics into consideration.
- Each street address falls within one of four tiers. These tiers are used as part of the selection process.
- For details on how the tiers are determined, and how they are used in the selection process, visit www.cpsdae.org.

Waitlists

- After available seats are filled, non-selected students are assigned a random waitlist number.
- Waitlists are managed by each individual school.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE HIGH SCHOOLS

International Baccalaureate High Schools

- Offer a comprehensive and challenging pre-university program.
- Widely recognized for high academic standards.

Eligibility Requirements

- Students must pre-qualify for the selection process, based on their NWEA scores and 7th grade GPA.
- General education students and students with a 504 Plan must score at the 24th percentile or above in reading and math, AND have a minimum 7th grade GPA (grade point average) of 2.5, AND attend one Information Session.
- Students with an IEP and students receiving bilingual education services must have percentiles in reading and math that equal 48 or more, AND have a minimum 7th grade GPA (grade point average) of 2.5, AND attend one Information Session.

Application Process

- Apply to up to six schools.
- Students must attend one Information Session.
- If the student is applying online, they will schedule the Information Session first and THEN apply.
- If the student submits a paper application, the parent will contact the school where he wants the student to attend the Information Session to schedule the appointment. Visit www.cpssoae.org for the schedule for Information Sessions and contact information.

Selection Process

- Students are assigned points based on their NWEA MAP scores and seventh grade final grades. Applicants meeting a school's cutoff score will receive an offer.
- If you are enrolled in an IB school's Middle Years Programme partner school or Academic Center, and meets the minimum application requirements and attends an Information Session, you will be automatically accepted to that school.
- If you live in the attendance area or overlay boundary of an IB High School to which you are applying, you will receive 50 additional points.

CTE-COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMIES

CTE – College and Career Academies

- Prepare students for college and career success.
- Offer hands-on training in various industries.
- May give students opportunities to earn college credit and participate in job shadows and internships.

Application/Eligibility Requirements

- Apply to up to five academies.
- Lottery Academies do not have minimum eligibility requirements.
- Selective Academies (Most Health Sciences, Law & Public Safety, Pre-Engineering, IT – Cisco and IT – Database Programming) require that students not be repeating eighth graders nor have been pushed from sixth grade into eighth grade.
- **For Hancock and Jones ONLY:** General education students and students with a 504 Plan must score on the NWEA MAP at the 24th percentile or above in reading and math; students with an IEP and students receiving bilingual education services must have percentiles in reading and math that equal 48 or more.

Selection Process

- Lottery Academies select students through a computerized lottery, with preference given to students with minimum NWEA MAP scores at the 24th percentile in reading and math (or percentiles that add up to 48 or more, for students with an IEP or students receiving bilingual education services).
- Selective Academies select students based on points. Students are given points based on their NWEA MAP scores and seventh grade final grades. Applicants meeting a school's cutoff score will receive an offer.

Selection Process – Hancock/Jones

- Total possible points: 600 points, based on seventh grade GPA and NWEA MAP scores in reading and math
- Students are ranked by score from high to low. Seats are filled starting from the highest score.
- Students who live in the schools' overlay boundaries are selected **first**.

Notification Letters

Notification letters will be released
no later than March 3, 2017.

If you apply **online**, your letter will be posted to your online portal. If you apply via **paper** application, your letter will be mailed on that date. (This is NOT the date you will receive the letter.)

You will receive a letter for each program (e.g., Selective Enrollment, Magnet, etc.) to which you apply.

Office of Access and Enrollment Presents:

Top Myth Busters About the Application and Selection Process

Myth #1: If I don't rank a selective enrollment high school as #1, I won't be selected by it.

Busted: A student with an 865 would be selected for a school even if that school is her third choice, but it is her highest choice for which she is qualified. She would be selected before a student with an 864 who ranked the same school as her first choice.

Myth #2: In ranking Selective Enrollment High Schools, I should rank the schools in the order of where I think my child will get in rather than where she really wants to go.

Busted: Schools should always be ranked in the true order of *where the student wants to go*. Schools should not be ranked in any other way. The computer algorithm is designed to give your child the highest choice for which she qualifies.

Myth #3: Schools select the students.

Busted: Selections are conducted by the Office of Access and Enrollment (OAE) through a computer algorithm for all schools except Military Academies. With the exception of Selective Enrollment High Schools, there is no principal discretion.

Myth #4: Race is considered in the selections for selective enrollment and magnet schools.

Busted: Race and ethnicity are NOT used for any selections. The socio-economic tiers replaced the use of race in selections in 2010.

Myth #5: It is better to apply early as students are selected on a first-come, first-served basis.

Busted: It does not matter when you submit your application as long as it is before the December 9, 2016, deadline. The selection process does not take place until after the application deadline.

Myth #6: Students who test later score higher than those who test earlier.

Busted: Tests are normed to the student's age. With regard to test results, there is no benefit to waiting for the last test dates to have your child tested.

Myth #7: The tier system looks at my personal information and assigns my child a tier based on that.

Busted: The tiers are based on aggregated data from within each census tract. All addresses within a census tract are the same tier. Tiers are updated annually in the fall.

Myth #9: If I pay for a test prep program, my child will get a seat at a selective enrollment school.

Busted: There is no evidence that students taking test prep programs outperform any other students.

Questions? Contact us!

Office of Access and Enrollment

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or

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