

Application Procedures

If you are interested in applying to Lindblom Math & Science Academy you may obtain an application at any of the CPS selective enrollment high schools. (www.selectiveenrollment.org) (Because the application is a scantron, it must be an original application.)

For those students currently attending a CPS elementary school, counselors will have applications for you.

Students and parents should bubble in the appropriate demographic information, i.e., name, address, ethnicity, and sex of student on the application form.

Applications for both CPS and non CPS students must then be taken to their home school, or the school that maintained their seventh grade records. This school will need to provide documentation of the applicants seventh-grade achievement test scores, seventh-grade final grades in the core subject areas (reading, mathematics, science, and social science), and seventh-grade attendance (days absent).

Once the application is completed and the seventh grade documents are attached, the school must submit the packet of information to **Chicago Public Schools, Office of Academic Enhancement, 125 South Clark Street, 4th floor, Chicago, IL 60603, attention: Jeffrey S. Gray.**

Upon receipt of students' application and verification of documents by the Office of Academic Enhancement, parents and/or students will be mailed letters regarding the students' eligibility to take the entrance examination. The letters will contain an assigned date, time, a unique test ID number, and location for the entrance examination and/or interview.

Some things to remember

Only one application should be submitted per student.

It is recommended that a copy of both application and the documents attached be made

To qualify to take the entrance exam, all students whose standardized testing information can be verified must have achieved a minimum stanine of 5 in mathematics and a minimum stanine of 5 in reading on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) or some other nationally normed standardized test (e.g., ITBS, SAT10, TERRA NOVA, CAT, etc.).

Students with special needs and students in bilingual programs are encouraged to apply. Those students with reading and mathematics stanines that total 10 (e.g., reading 3 and mathematics 7; reading 4 and mathematics 6, etc.) are eligible to take the admission examination and/or participate in the interview process.

Students and parents must choose up to four Selective Enrollment High Schools they believe most appropriately reflect the student's interests and/or overall academic goals. Changes in school choices, once the application has been submitted, must be made in writing to Jeffrey Gray, at the above address.

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, December 22, 2006.

Beginning on Saturday, December 2, 2006, entrance examinations will be administered at the Selective Enrollment High School test sites indicated on the application. **STUDENTS WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE EXAM ONCE.**

Testing accommodations will be made for special education students who may need additional support. As part of the required application documents, special education students must include a copy of their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that deals specifically with *testing accommodations*.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website at selectiveenrollment.org.

CPS Selective Enrollment High School Application & Admissions Cycle Frequently Asked Questions

How does the selection process work?

Once you have taken the entrance exam, the Office of Academic Enhancement compiles four categories of performance data to create an overall point total, with a maximum of 1000. The data for all students are made available to the principals when testing is complete. The principals make their decisions, assisted by an admission committee. They have access to information for all students who chose their school, whether 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th.

- The four categories of performance data are:
 - 7th grade standardized tests scores (usually ITBS but not in private schools) account for 30% of each student's admissions score. Students at the 99th percentile in both reading and math would receive the full 300 pts.
 - 7th grade marks in reading, math, science and social studies account for 30% of a student's admissions score: A = 75 pts, B = 50 pts, C = 25 pts, D & F = 0 pts. For a total 300 possible points.
 - 7th grade attendance accounts for 10% of each student's admissions score: 0 days absent = 100 pts, 1 day absent = 98 pts, etc.
 - The Selective Enrollment Exam accounts for 30% of a student's admissions score. The primary areas tested are English, reading and mathematics. Students can earn a possible 300 pts.

Did the choice number I gave to each school make a difference?

Schools may view your choice number (1-4) as an indication of your interest in their program, compared to programs at other schools. A school may see more than enough high scoring applicants who ranked them #1; therefore, they may not offer admission to students with similar scores who ranked them #2 or lower. They do this because they are unsure whether that #2 student will accept their offer, or whether that student is more likely to accept an offer from the student's first choice school.

Is it true that sometimes a student's race/ethnicity can make a difference?

Yes, sometimes. The Chicago Board of Education is required by federal desegregation action to keep its school enrollment in balance with the race/ethnicity percentages of the city of Chicago. When a strict rank ordering of applicants does not yield an acceptable race/ethnicity balance, the admissions committee may have to select some comparatively lower-scoring students from groups that are underrepresented at their school.

If I qualified to take the entrance exam, why wasn't I chosen at any school?

Being eligible just means that you were among over 10,000 students who were invited to take the exam. Of those, only about 2,500 students will be enrolled at the schools next fall. Your performance on the exam relative to the other students played a big role in whether or not you were chosen. Admission to these schools is so competitive that *thousands* of very talented students are not accepted at any of their choices each year.

If I wasn't selected at any school, can I still attend a Chicago public high school?

Yes! Remember, this letter refers *only* to the Selective Enrollment High Schools. You may also have applied to several other magnet programs and Magnet High Schools. They will contact you about their decision in a separate letter. Also, you may enroll at the neighborhood high school that is designated for your Chicago address.

Are there good alternatives to the Selective Enrollment High Schools?

Yes. While the Selective Enrollment High Schools are excellent schools, they are not necessarily the best choice for everyone. Ask yourself, realistically, what your rank in class is likely to be at graduation and how that might affect your ability to gain admissions to the college of your choice. For some students, enrollment at a magnet or a general high school provides a better opportunity to stand out in the eyes of a college admissions committee. Many of these high schools have excellent programs.

If I was not admitted to any Selective Enrollment High School or Magnet High School, what should I do next?

- If you are currently enrolled at a CPS elementary school, your counselor can help you understand your options and make sure you are enrolled at a high school by the end of April.
- If you are currently enrolled at a non-public elementary school, you may get help from the counselors at your school, or you may directly contact the general high school designated for your Chicago address. They will tell you everything you need to do to become enrolled for the 2007 school year.

- Note: Non-public school students who took the Selective Enrollment entrance exam do not have to take the ITBS at the end of March in order to enroll in a CPS high school. Selective Enrollment entrance exam results will be used instead.

Who can I call if I still have questions?

Please feel free to call the Office of Academic Enhancement at 773.553.2240 to speak to someone on our staff.