

The image shows the front cover of the '2013-2014 CPS High School Guide'. The cover has a clean, white background with a prominent dark blue border. At the top, the academic year '2013-2014' is printed in a bold, dark blue font. Below this, a horizontal line separates the year from the title 'CPS High School Guide', which is also in a bold, dark blue font. At the bottom of the cover, there is a dark blue rectangular box. Inside this box, the words 'CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS' are written in white, stacked vertically, followed by a vertical line and the letters 'CPS' in a larger white font.

# CPS High School Guide

CHICAGO  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

CPS

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 2012

Dear Parents and Students:

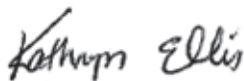
Thank you for considering the Chicago Public Schools as your educational choice!

The Chicago Public Schools system is entering an exciting era, marked by expanded programs and new initiatives designed to ensure that we meet the educational needs of every student. We are pleased to offer a wide array of programs, including selective enrollment, fine and performing arts, International Baccalaureate, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), career preparation, and many others. In addition, in most schools, students have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement coursework, which will enable them to acquire college-level credits while still in high school.

To help you navigate the application process, we are particularly excited to offer this new High School Guide, which contains a wealth of information about all district and charter schools and provides user-friendly specifics about each school's application and selection procedures. The guide also provides several tools to assist you in the process of identifying and applying to high schools, such as the School Choice Worksheet and the Application Checklist.

We hope that you will find the High School Guide to be an informative and easy-to-use mechanism for finding the best school or program for you. If you have questions or need assistance of any kind, please don't hesitate to contact the Office of Access and Enrollment at (773) 553-2060 or [oe@cps.edu](mailto:oe@cps.edu). We are here to serve!

Sincerely,

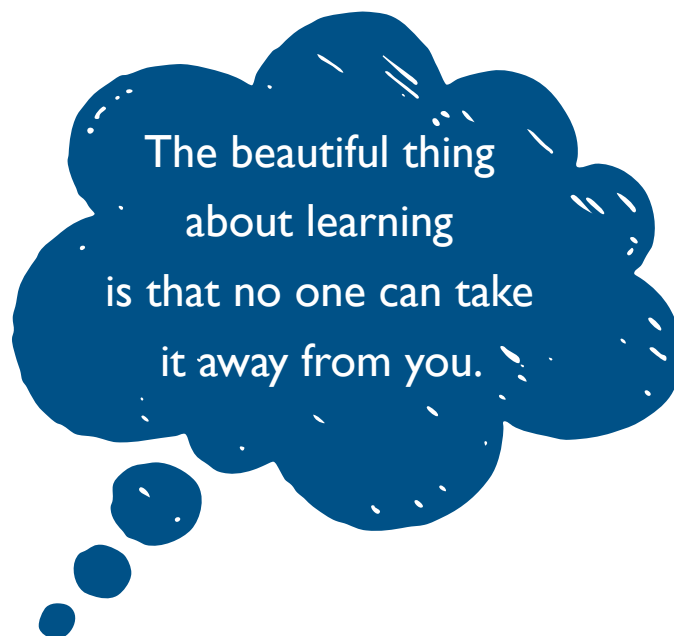


Kathryn Ellis  
Executive Director  
Office of Access and Enrollment



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# INTRODUCTION

High school is an important step in your educational life, as it helps to prepare you for college or your future career, and provides opportunities for learning essential components of personal development, including self-discipline, time management, decision-making, and teamwork. Because students have different interests, abilities, and needs, the Chicago Public Schools offers a wide variety of schools and programs to ensure that you are able to find the right fit.

The key aspect of applying for high school is choosing the right schools – it is important to apply to schools that meet your needs and fulfill your interests, as well as to maximize your options by applying to all of the schools where you would accept an offer if it is extended.

The High School Guide is designed to provide you with details on how to apply to the various schools and programs available, as well as offer specifics on each school. All district and charter schools are included in the guide; listed in alphabetical order, each school offers a profile that contains the school's location, eligibility requirements (if any), selection procedures, school performance, academic programs, sports and extracurricular activities, and other school-related characteristics. In addition to the profiles, the guide contains details regarding application, selection, and notification procedures that will help you to understand the entire process, from start to finish.

*Read on for information on how to get started!*

## Resources

The High School Guide is your best resource for understanding the application and selection procedures, as well as learning about the wide variety of options available to you. Listed below are additional resources that we recommend as you begin identifying schools and becoming familiar with the application process.

**Online Guide:** Information about each school is provided in a searchable, interactive online guide at [www.cpshighschooldirectory.com](http://www.cpshighschooldirectory.com). All of the information in the printed high school guide is contained in the online guide, along with additional information that cannot be accommodated in the printed version (e.g., additional extracurricular activities and sports, Advanced Placement subject areas, etc.). The online site will allow you to enter keywords that will help you find the schools that will be the best fit for you. The site will also provide information about new schools that are approved for the 2013-2014 school year after the release of this guide.

**Open Houses:** Many schools hold Open House events, which provide the opportunity for a personal, first-hand experience of the school. You can find information about the dates and times for these events at the Office of Access and Enrollment website, [www.cpsoae.org](http://www.cpsoae.org). ('Events.') The list of Open Houses is updated frequently, so check back for additional dates.

**Eligibility Letter:** The Eligibility Letter contains the student's ISAT scores and final grades from seventh grade, lists some of the schools for which the student is eligible to apply, and provides additional information, if applicable, regarding tests, information sessions, and other application requirements. Each Chicago public school and charter school student enrolled in eighth grade received an Eligibility Letter in September 2012.

**NOTE:** Additional district or charter high schools or high school programs may be approved by the Chicago Board of Education after the printing of this guide. Please check [www.cpsoae.org](http://www.cpsoae.org) and [www.cpshighschooldirectory.com](http://www.cpshighschooldirectory.com) for updates.

## How to Select Your Schools: Step-by-Step

You may wish to consider a number of factors when selecting the schools where you want to apply, including the academic programs the school offers; the extracurricular activities and sports available; how close the school is to your home; and school performance in areas including ACT scores and graduation rates.

*To assist you in identifying your school choices, we recommend that you follow this step-by-step process:*

### **Step 1: Complete the School Choice Worksheet (found in the Appendix)**

This worksheet will help you to identify your eligibility for schools and programs with academic requirements, as well as to highlight areas that are important to you. You can then use the completed worksheet as a resource as you create, revise, and finalize your school choices.

### **Step 2: Create your preliminary list of schools and programs**

List all the schools and programs in which you are interested, that you already have heard of or know about.

### **Step 3: List additional schools and programs**

Use the profiles in this guide, as well as the online guide, to identify additional schools that reflect the areas on your worksheet that are important to you. As you find these schools, add them to the list you started in Step 2. Include all of the schools that you would like to consider, and where you would accept an offer if it is extended. You should also note that some schools offer more than one program to which you can apply.

### **Step 4: Identify application requirements**

Look up the profile of each school on your list to determine the application requirements for any schools that are not on your Eligibility Letter. Using the information on your worksheet, eliminate from your list any schools where you do not meet the application requirements.

### **Step 5: Attend Open House events**

Check the Office of Access and Enrollment website at [www.cpsdae.org](http://www.cpsdae.org), or call the schools directly, to see if the schools on your list are holding Open House events. Attend as many Open House events as you can. You may want to take a small notepad with you to the events to record your impressions of each of the schools you visit. If you visit any schools that do not seem to be a good fit, eliminate them from your list.

### **Step 6: Determine transportation needs**

Review the addresses of all the schools still on your list and be sure that you can identify how you would get to and from the school every day. If necessary, consult the individual school profiles in this guide, which provide information regarding public transportation routes for each school. If you are unable to identify a workable transportation plan for any schools, eliminate them from your list. You may also wish to eliminate any schools that would require more than 90 minutes of transportation time.

### **Step 7: Identify application procedures**

After you have identified all of the schools and programs where you want to apply, review the school profiles contained in this guide to determine the correct application procedure. Some schools and programs (CTE-College and Career Academies, International Baccalaureate High Schools, Magnet High Schools and Programs, Military Academies, and Selective Enrollment High Schools) use a centrally

managed application process, where only one application is needed to apply to several schools. (More about the application process for these schools starts on page 7, under ‘How to Apply: Centrally Managed Processes.’) Other schools and programs accept the Options for Knowledge Standard High School Application, which you can download and print from the Office of Access and Enrollment website, [www.cpsoe.org](http://www.cpsoe.org) (click ‘Apply’). The remaining schools and programs have their own application, which you can obtain directly from the school or from the school’s website. Be sure that you use the correct procedure for each school or program in which you are interested. Each school profile in this guide identifies the correct application.

### **Step 8: Review application checklist (found in the Appendix)**

Before you submit your application(s), review the Application Checklist to ensure that your application is complete.

### **Step 9: Review the Admissions Screenings for Centrally Managed Processes (found in the Appendix)**

This document will provide you with an overview of what to expect after you submit an application to International Baccalaureate High Schools, Magnet High Schools and Programs, Military Academies, or Selective Enrollment High Schools. Each of these school types has required admissions screenings, such as testing or attendance at information sessions. The Admissions Screenings document provides details regarding these requirements.

## **Online or Paper?**

For schools that have a centralized application process that is managed by the Office of Access and Enrollment, you have the option of applying online or submitting a paper application. These school types are listed below:

- CTE - College and Career Academies
- International Baccalaureate High Schools
- Magnet High Schools and Programs
- Military Academies
- Selective Enrollment High Schools

*(More information about the application processes for these schools can be found in this guide on pages 7-12, ‘How to Apply: Centrally Managed Processes.’)*

We recommend that you use the online process; the process is easy to use, applications are processed faster, chances of parent error are decreased, and you will receive an email confirmation after the application is successfully received.

### **Online**

You will need a Personal Identification Number (PIN) in order to apply online; the PIN is used in the place of the parent’s signature. (PINs issued in previous years are no longer active; if you received a PIN in a previous school year, you will have to request a new PIN.) In order to request a PIN, visit the online application site, [www.apply.cps.edu](http://www.apply.cps.edu) and click ‘Step 1.’ After you complete and submit the request form, a PIN will be mailed to your home address; you should receive it within five business days. Once you receive your PIN, you will return to the online site and enter your email address and the password you created when you opened your account. You will then be prompted to enter your PIN in order to access the applications that you will need.

In order to submit your application, be sure to hit the submit button. After your application is successfully submitted, you will see a confirmation page that reads “Successfully Submitted” – we strongly recommend that you print this form for your records, as you will not be able to access it after the application deadline, and this will be the only documentation available to you that lists the schools to which you applied. In addition, after your application is submitted, you will receive an email confirmation (the email confirmation does not list the schools; it only confirms that your application was received). If you are unable to locate your email confirmation, check your spam or junk mailbox. If you did not receive the confirmation, contact the Office of Access and Enrollment at (773) 553-2060 or [oea@cps.edu](mailto:oea@cps.edu).

### **Paper**

If you prefer to submit a paper application, you can obtain an application from the Office of Access and Enrollment website ([www.cpsoea.org](http://www.cpsoea.org) – click ‘Apply’), by mail upon request from the Office of Access and Enrollment (call 773-553-2060), from the high school in which you are interested, or from your school counselor. To apply, follow the instructions on the reverse of the application.

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## **Deadline**

The application deadline is December 14, 2012, for district schools. (Note that there are a few district schools that have a different deadline; check the School Profiles for details.) Paper applications must be postmarked no later than December 14th and online applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 14th.

Charter schools establish their own application deadlines; contact the individual schools of your choice for information.

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## **Notification**

Notification letters for district schools will be mailed to your home the week of February 18, 2013.

## **How to Apply: Centrally Managed Processes**

The Chicago Public Schools system offers a wide variety of schools and programs to meet the varying interests and needs of students. As a result, schools have different eligibility requirements and selection procedures, depending on the type of school or program.

Some schools and programs accept the Standard High Schools application, while many others have their own application; information on which application is required by each school can be found in the School Profiles section. In addition, five types of schools and programs have a centrally managed application process: CTE-College and Career Academies, International Baccalaureate High Schools, Magnet Schools and Programs, Military Academies, and Selective Enrollment High Schools. This section provides details on how to apply to these schools and programs.



### **A Closer Look at: Socio-Economic Tiers**

Selective Enrollment High Schools and Magnet High Schools take into consideration socio-economic characteristics as part of the selection process. This process involves the use of socio-economic “tiers” that are derived from census tract data. The following provides an overview on how the tiers are formed.

Every Chicago address falls within a specific census tract. We look at five socio-economic characteristics for each census tract: (1) median family income, (2) percentage of single-family homes, (3) percentage of homes where English is not the first language, (4) percentage of homes occupied by the homeowner, and (5) level of adult education attainment. We also look at a sixth characteristic, the achievement scores from attendance area schools in each census tract.

Based on the results of each of these six areas, each census tract is given a specific score; these scores are ranked and divided into four groups – or “tiers” – each consisting of approximately the same number of school-age children. This is how we establish the four tiers. Consequently, every Chicago address falls into one of the four tiers, based on the characteristics mentioned above.

Details on how the tiers are utilized in the selection process for Selective Enrollment High Schools and Magnet High Schools are outlined in those sections.

### **CTE - College and Career Academies**

#### **Eligibility:**

Lottery Academies: no minimum requirements to apply

Selective Academies: Students must have completed seventh grade during the 2011-2012 school year. Students repeating eighth grade and students pushed into eighth grade from sixth grade due to age requirements are not eligible.

#### **Selection:**

Lottery Academies: Most of the College and Career Academies are lottery academies. If more applications are received than there are spaces available, students are selected by lottery.

Preference is given to students with minimum stanine scores of 5 in total math and reading comprehension (except Dunbar, which has no stanine preference). Students with an IEP/504 Plan, or receiving bilingual education services, receive preference when their stanines in reading comprehension and total math equal at least 10 (e.g., 3 in reading, 7 in math; 9 in reading, 1 in math). If not all spaces are filled by applicants meeting the stanine minimums, remaining spaces are offered to applicants with stanine scores below 5. A total of 30% of the seats will be made available to attendance area applicants.

Selective Academies: Selection is based on points for Health Sciences, Law & Public Safety, Pre-Engineering, IT - Cisco Networking, Database Programming, and Pre-Engineering Academies. Students are given points based on their 2011-2012 standardized test scores and 2011-2012 final GPA (grade point average).

Each school selects its minimum cutoff score for selections, and applicants meeting or exceeding this score will receive an offer.

## International Baccalaureate (IB) High Schools

### Eligibility:

Students must meet minimum eligibility requirements in order to apply. Eligibility is based on the student's 2011-2012 ISAT national percentile rank in reading comprehension and total math or, if the student did not take the ISAT, the 2011-2012 percentile rank in reading comprehension and total math on a different nationally normed, standardized achievement test. To be eligible to apply, students must have a minimum stanine of 5 in reading comprehension and total math and a minimum 2.5 GPA (grade point average) in seventh grade. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan and English Language Learners must have stanines in reading comprehension and total math that equal at least 10 (e.g., 3 in reading, 7 in math; 9 in reading, 1 in math) and a minimum 2.5 GPA in seventh grade. All interested students must submit an application, including those who live in the schools' attendance boundaries.

(PLEASE NOTE that the IB programs at the following schools are awaiting Board approval:

Back of the Yards, Bronzeville, Clemente, Farragut, Juarez, and Schurz. In addition, four schools [Back of the Yards and Clemente, if approved, along with Hyde Park and Senn] also offer a separate IB program for students who live within their respective neighborhood attendance boundaries. There are no minimum eligibility requirements for these programs; students living in the attendance boundaries are admitted automatically and no application is required.)

In addition, IB High Schools (with the exception of Back of the Yards HS, if approved), require the highest qualified students to attend an information meeting. Students will be invited to an information meeting based on their seventh grade standardized test scores and final grades; the meetings will take place between January 19th and February 16th.

If you qualify for an information meeting at a particular school, the Office of Access and Enrollment will notify you by mail of the date and time by January 16, 2013. Applying to a particular school does not guarantee an invitation to the information meeting nor an offer of admittance. A student who is invited to an information meeting and does not attend will not be considered for the program at that school.

### Selection:

Students are selected based on an overall applicant score – performance on seventh grade ISAT (450 points) and seventh grade report card grades in reading, math, science, and social studies (450 points). Students residing within the attendance boundary of a high school with an IB program will receive 50 additional points, which will be awarded prior to the invitations to the information meetings. Each IB High School selects a minimum cutoff score for selections and applicants meeting or exceeding this score will receive an offer.

If you are enrolled in an IB Middle Years Programme that has a partner high school, or if you are enrolled at the Academic Center at Morgan Park or Taft, and you meet the minimum requirements to apply, you can automatically be admitted to the partner IB program for your school. The chart on page 10 shows the elementary Middle Years Programmes that have partner IB High Schools.

If you attend:	You can be automatically admitted to the IB program for the school below if you meet the minimum application requirements:
Bouchet	South Shore
Carnegie	Hyde Park
Edwards or Madero	Curie
Locke	Steinmetz
Marquette	Bogan
Marsh	Washington
McPherson	Amundsen
Peirce	Senn
Morgan Park Academic Center	Morgan Park
Taft Academic Center	Taft

## Magnet High Schools

### Eligibility

Students must meet minimum eligibility requirements in order to apply. Eligibility is based on the student's 2011-2012 ISAT national percentile rank in reading and math or, if the student did not take the ISAT, the 2011-2012 percentile rank in reading and math on a different nationally normed, standardized achievement test. For most schools, in order to be eligible for inclusion in the computerized lottery, students must have a minimum stanine of 5 in reading comprehension and a minimum stanine of 5 in total math. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan must have stanines in reading comprehension and total math that equal at least 10 (e.g., 3 in reading, 7 in math; 9 in reading, 1 in math).

*The following schools have exceptions to these requirements:*

- **Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences:** requires a minimum stanine of 5 in reading comprehension, 5 in total math, and 5 in science.
- **Von Steuben:** Science program requires a minimum stanine of 5 in reading comprehension, 5 in total math, and 5 in science.
- **Von Steuben:** Scholars program requires a minimum stanine of 7 in reading comprehension, 7 in total math, and 7 in science.

## Selection

Students are selected for seats in magnet high schools through a computerized lottery (except the Scholars Program at Von Steuben High School, which selects students based on ISAT scores, GPA, teacher recommendations, and a student essay. See [www.vonsteuben.org](http://www.vonsteuben.org) for details – click ‘Academics’ and ‘Admissions’).

Students must meet minimum eligibility requirements in order to be included in the lottery. The first seats are offered to eligible applicants who are siblings of students who are currently enrolled, and who will be still enrolled, in the school in the 2013-2014 school year. (If more siblings apply than there are seats available, a computerized sibling lottery will be conducted to fill the available spaces.) Sibling preference will only be given if the application indicates that the student is applying as a sibling, and this information has been verified.

After the siblings are accommodated, the next 40% of the available seats are designated for students who live within the school’s defined proximity boundary (in most cases, a 2.5 mile radius of the school). After the proximity students are accommodated, the remaining seats are distributed evenly among the four tiers, and the seats are filled by computerized lottery. (Note: proximity lotteries are not conducted at magnet high schools that have an attendance boundary, or at magnet high schools where at least 50% of the students reside in the neighborhood and at least 50% are of a single racial/ethnic group.)

## Magnet Programs

### Eligibility

Students must meet minimum eligibility requirements in order to apply. Eligibility is based on the student’s 2011-2012 ISAT national percentile rank in reading and math or, if the student did not take the ISAT, the 2011-2012 percentile rank in reading and math on a different nationally normed, standardized achievement test. Students must have a minimum stanine of 5 in reading comprehension and a minimum stanine of 5 in total math. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan must have stanines in reading comprehension and total math that total at least 10 (e.g., 3 in reading, 7 in math; 9 in reading, 1 in math).

### Selection

#### Harlan

Eligible students are selected through a computerized lottery. The first seats are offered to eligible applicants who are siblings of students who are currently enrolled, and who will be still enrolled, in the school in the 2013-2014 school year. (If more siblings apply than there are seats available, a computerized sibling lottery will be conducted to fill the available spaces.) Sibling preference will only be given if the application indicates that the student is applying as a sibling, and this information has been verified.

After the siblings are accommodated, the remaining seats are distributed evenly among the four tiers, and the seats are filled by computerized lottery.

#### Senn

Students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements will receive a letter by January 25, 2013, inviting them to participate in an audition or portfolio process. Students will be selected based on a point system; points are based on the student’s seventh grade standardized test scores, seventh grade final grades, and the audition/portfolio.

## Military Academies

### Eligibility

Students must meet minimum eligibility requirements in order to apply. Eligibility is based on the student's 2011-2012 ISAT national percentile rank in reading comprehension and total math or, if the student did not take the ISAT, the 2011-2012 percentile rank in reading comprehension and total math on a different nationally normed, standardized achievement test. To be eligible to apply, students must have stanines in reading comprehension and total math that equal at least 10 (e.g., 3 in reading, 7 in math; 9 in reading, 1 in math).

Eligible students must also attend an Information Session at one of the six Military Academies. For a listing of the Information Session dates and times, visit [www.ChicagoJROTC.com](http://www.ChicagoJROTC.com) or contact schools directly. At the Information Session, students will sign a Commitment Agreement, complete a Motivation and Perseverance Assessment and write a brief essay.

### Selection

Student selection is based on a point system with a maximum of 500 points, derived from seventh grade final grades in reading, math, science, and social studies (100 points), seventh grade ISAT scores (100 points), the two-part assessment (100 for each part), and the essay (100 points).

## Selective Enrollment High Schools

### Eligibility

Students must meet minimum eligibility requirements in order to apply. Eligibility is based on the student's 2011-2012 ISAT national percentile rank in reading and math or, if the student did not take the ISAT, the 2011-2012 percentile rank in reading and math on a different nationally normed, standardized achievement test. In order to be eligible for testing, students must have a minimum stanine of 5 in reading comprehension and a minimum stanine of 5 in total math. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan must have stanines in reading comprehension and total math that equal at least 10 (e.g., 3 in reading, 7 in math; 9 in reading, 1 in math).

### Selection

Student selection is based on a point system, with a maximum of 900 points, derived from seventh grade final grades in reading, math, science and social studies (300 points), seventh grade ISAT scores (300 points), and the admissions exam (300 points).

(A rubric showing how the points are allotted for each of these three areas can be found on the Office of Access and Enrollment website, [www.cpsdae.org](http://www.cpsdae.org) – click 'Programs' followed by 'Selective Enrollment High Schools' and 'Scoring Rubric.')

The first 30% of available seats at each school are filled strictly according to the student scores – also referred to as the “rank” score – the seats are filled by the top-scoring students. The remaining seats are equally distributed among the four tiers and are filled by the highest-scoring students in each tier. (For more details on how this process works, see the Office of Access and Enrollment website, [www.cpsdae.org](http://www.cpsdae.org) – click 'Programs' followed by 'Selective Enrollment High Schools' and 'Student Selection: Step-by-Step Illustration.')

## Tips for Applying

### All Schools

- If you are using paper applications, do not wait until the last day to mail your applications – you never know what might happen to delay the mail. Late applications will not be processed.
- If you mail your application, it is strongly recommended that you have a postal official postmark the envelope in front of you.
- Be sure to consider as many schools as possible in which you are interested – don't limit your choices to just a few highly sought-after schools. The more schools you identify as options, the better your chances for selection.
- Do not apply to schools where you would not want to enroll if you receive an offer. There is no advantage in applying to schools in which you have no interest.
- Use a variety of sources to help you identify the schools where you want to apply. See this guide for a list of resources that you may wish to use.
- If you change your address after you submit your application, you are responsible for notifying the Office of Access and Enrollment or the school, as appropriate, of the change. To notify the Office of Access and Enrollment, submit a Contact Information Modification Form, accessible at [www.cpsdae.org](http://www.cpsdae.org) (click 'Apply' and 'Application Modification Forms').

### Schools with Centrally Managed Application Processes

- You are strongly encouraged to apply to schools online at [www.apply.cps.edu](http://www.apply.cps.edu). Here's why!
  - Applications are processed faster.
  - Chances for parent error are diminished.
  - You can print a confirmation page after you submit your application.
  - We will send you an email confirmation after the application is successfully received.
- If you apply online, be sure to print your confirmation page after you submit your application, as this will be the only documentation you have that lists the schools to which you applied. (The email confirmation you receive will only confirm that your application was received.)
- Be sure to include your CPS ID number on the application if you currently attend a Chicago public school or charter school. This number can be located on a school report card or your Eligibility Letter; on the Parent Portal (click 'Manage Students'); or from your school. If you do not include this number, it will have to be entered manually, which will delay the processing of your application.
- If you are applying as a sibling, you must be identified as a sibling on your application. If you are not identified as a sibling, you will not be given selection preference as a sibling. You will only need to identify one sibling per school.

## Specialized Services and the Selective Enrollment High School Testing Process

The purpose of the Office of Access and Enrollment's (OAE) Selective Enrollment High Schools entrance examination is to match students to educational programs that meet their needs. It is important that all students be afforded the opportunity to demonstrate their true level of achievement and ability. Our goal is to mitigate the effect of disabilities, to the maximum extent possible. This enables a student with a disability to be assessed on equal footing as a non-disabled peer. We do this through providing accommodations as outlined in the student's 504 Plan or Individualized Education Program (IEP).

An accommodation is a change in the procedure for administering the assessment that reduces the effect of the disability to the maximum extent possible. For example, if the student's IEP indicates that the student has a fine motor deficit and cannot fill in bubbles and requires that a scribe be provided to assist with the answer sheet, then we would provide for the transfer of information from the test booklet to the answer sheet through a scribe. This allows us to measure what the student knows and does not negatively impact the student's score because the student cannot fill in the bubbles efficiently. Accommodations do not change the kind of achievement or ability being measured, but they do change how the achievement or ability is measured. The accommodation reduces any problems the student might face in accessing the test content and allows the student to demonstrate their knowledge and abilities with the material.

Accommodations are decided during the IEP or 504 Plan meeting by the IEP team (comprised of various educators, parents, specialists, and pertinent stakeholders). A physician's medical diagnosis, independent psychological evaluations, and reports from other specialists can be used by the IEP team to support the determination of a disability and whether accommodations are necessary. These reports, however, are not sufficient, in and of themselves, to determine if a student can receive accommodations. Rather, the student must have a current IEP or 504 Plan from a public school.

### What you as a parent can do when applying for Selective Enrollment High Schools:

- 1 When completing your child's application, check yes to items that indicate your child has an IEP/504 Plan. This indication will in no way negatively impact your application. OAE encourages all parents to apply early.
- 2 It is important that your child's IEP or 504 Plan is current and lists the accommodations that are required for testing. If you are the parent of a young child, please ensure your IEP/504 team completes the section of the IEP that lists District/State Assessment Accommodations (located in Section 10 (c) of the IEP) and in Section 5(2) of the 504 Plan. Applicable accommodations listed in this section (District/State Assessment Accommodations Section 10 (c) – Testing Accommodations or 5. Accommodations and Modifications: Classroom/Testing for Section 504) are the accommodations that will be provided for selective enrollment testing. Below is a sample list of accommodations that you will want to discuss with your IEP/504 team to determine if these accommodations are needed to support your child during testing.

**Extended Time:** Some students may need to have time limits on some tests extended to reduce the effect of slow work rate on their test performance. Those who use magnifiers, those who have attention disorders, and those who need help with word identification or reading are examples.

**Individual/Small Group Administration:** Students may be tested in small groups or individually; there is no minimum group size requirement for test administration. Students who need extra breaks and those who might be distracted in a classroom-testing situation might benefit from being tested in this manner.

**Large-Print Edition:** Students with visual impairments may benefit from the use of a large- print version of the test.

**Braille Edition:** Students who use Braille materials regularly with their classroom instruction may benefit from testing with the Braille version of the tests.

**Communication Assistance:** A test administrator who is fluent in the signing or cueing methods used by the student may need to repeat directions or certain portions of a test administration to clarify procedures for the student. Signs conveying answers to test questions should not be used, and no portion of the reading comprehension or vocabulary tests should be cued in any way.

**Repeated Directions:** Directions may be read aloud as many times as necessary to inform students of the proper procedures to follow in responding.

**Test Read Aloud:** Students with reading disabilities might need to have portions of tests or some complete tests read to them so that their reading skill does not interfere with measuring their achievement. For vocabulary and reading comprehension tests, reading the test aloud would potentially threaten the validity of the assessment and is not a permissible accommodation for these specific sections.

**Answers Recorded/Scribe:** An assistant or proctor may record the answers of a student on the answer sheet if the student is unable to do so as a result of the student's disability.

**Transferred Answers/Scribe:** Responses recorded in test booklets or those recorded by technologically assistive devices can be transferred to the student's answer sheet in preparation for scoring.

**Other:** Accommodations noted in Section 10(c) of student's IEP or Section 5(2) in a student's 504 Plan that are not included in the above list may also be used, as appropriate for the exam.

### Eligibility Requirements at a Glance

*Testing eligibility for students with an IEP or 504 Plan will be based on the student's 2011-2012 ISAT scores or, if they did not take the ISAT, on a different nationally normed, standardized test (e.g., ITBS, Terra Nova, etc.).*

#### Applicants to grade 9

Students must have stanines in reading comprehension and total math that equal at least 10 (e.g., 7 in reading, 3 in math; 2 in reading, 8 in math, etc.).



## Frequently Asked Questions

The following provides additional information about the application, selection, and notification process, as well as about the schools and programs available.

### General

#### **Is transportation provided?**

Bus transportation is not generally provided for high school students. Transportation at the high school level is provided to students with disabilities if the IEP or 504 Plan requires it; for information, contact the Office of Special Education and Supports at (773) 553-1800. Transportation may also be provided to homeless students upon enrollment; for information, contact the Office of Educational Support for Students in Temporary Living Situations at (773) 553-2242.

#### **I am already enrolled in high school. I would like to transfer to another high school next year. What should I do?**

Contact the high school in which you are interested for information on transfer opportunities and guidelines. Each school establishes its own guidelines and requirements for transfer students.

#### **What is Principal Discretion?**

Principal Discretion is a process that allows principals of Selective Enrollment High Schools to fill a designated number of seats, outside of the regular selection process, and in strict compliance with the Principal Discretion guidelines. The Principal Discretion process takes place in March, following the first round of regular selection. Information about the process will be posted on the Office of Access and Enrollment website, [www.cpsdae.org](http://www.cpsdae.org), in March 2013. Principal Discretion only applies to the 10 Selective Enrollment High Schools.

#### **How do I apply to Charter schools?**

Charter schools are independently operated – each school has a separate application. Contact the schools of your choice for information about the application process and deadlines.

### Application Process

#### **Can English Language Learners and students with disabilities apply to schools with eligibility requirements?**

Yes. To apply to Selective Enrollment High Schools, Magnet High Schools, and IB High Schools, English Language Learners and students with an IEP or 504 Plan must have stanines in reading comprehension and total math, on their previous year's ISAT (or other standardized test), that total at least 10 (e.g., 3 in reading, 7 in math; 9 in reading, 1 in math). If a student with a mobility impairment is selected by lottery for a magnet school or program that is not accessible, transportation will be provided to a comparable magnet program at an accessible school.

#### **Do I have to submit my grades and test scores with my application?**

If you attended a Chicago public school in the 2011-2012 school year and you are applying to CTE-College and Career Academies, IB High Schools, Magnet High Schools and programs, Military Academies and/or Selective Enrollment High Schools, you do not have to submit any supportive documentation; CPS will obtain test scores and grades from the Student Information System.

If you are applying to these schools and you attended a charter, private, parochial, or other non-CPS school in the 2011-2012 school year, please follow the instructions below:

- If you are using a paper application, submit your application to your current school counselor or principal. The counselor/principal will complete the required information on the application and forward it, along with your test scores and grades, to the Office of Access and Enrollment.
- If you are applying online, print out your confirmation page. (This is the page that is displayed after you submit your application.) Submit a copy of the confirmation page, along with your test scores and grades, to the Office of Access and Enrollment, or ask your current school counselor/principal to submit these materials to the Office of Access and Enrollment.

**I didn't take the ISAT last year and I want to apply to schools with eligibility requirements. What should I do?**

If you did not take the ISAT in the 2011-2012 school year, you may submit scores from any of the following tests:

- Terra Nova (normed 2007 or 2011)
- Stanford Achievement Test 10
- Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)
- Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement 2
- Woodcock Johnson Achievement Test 3
- Wechsler Individual Achievement Test 3

If you were administered a test in 2011-2012 that does not appear on this list, it is not an accepted test for determining eligibility. If you do not have scores from an accepted test, you may take one of the accepted tests through one of the following testing options:

- You may obtain private testing on an approved test by a certified school psychologist or a clinical licensed psychologist.
- The Chicago School Forensic Center offers testing services at low to no cost. The center is located in the downtown Chicago area. For information and to schedule testing, call 312-467-2535 and ask to speak with reception or the project coordinator. Also, please see the website for additional information at [www.forensiccenter.org](http://www.forensiccenter.org).

**I need science scores to apply to the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences and Von Steuben. What should I do?**

The Chicago School Forensic Center only administers standardized tests in the areas of reading comprehension and total math. In order to take a standardized test in science, you will need to contact the Office of Access and Enrollment at (773) 553-2057 or [zmphillips@cps.edu](mailto:zmphillips@cps.edu). Staff from the Office of Access and Enrollment will schedule you to take the science test at CHAS or Von Steuben.

**I took the ISAT last year, but I would like to take it again to see if I can get a better score. Can I do this?**

No. If you took the ISAT (or any other acceptable exam) during seventh grade, this is the measure that will be used for the application process.

## Testing and Information Sessions

### **What is on the Selective Enrollment High Schools exam?**

The Selective Enrollment High Schools exam is an achievement skills test that covers four subject areas: reading comprehension, vocabulary, language arts (grammar), and math word problems.

### **Do you provide sample questions or study materials for the Selective Enrollment High Schools exam?**

The Chicago Public Schools does not recommend or provide study guides, preparation courses, or sample tests/questions for the Selective Enrollment High Schools admissions exam. The Selective Enrollment High Schools admissions exam is designed to assess student ability, knowledge, and potential for success in programs for academically advanced students.

### **I am applying to more than one Selective Enrollment High School. How many tests will I have to take?**

You will only take one Selective Enrollment High Schools admissions exam, regardless of the number of schools to which you apply.

### **How long is the Selective Enrollment High Schools test?**

The Selective Enrollment High Schools exam is approximately three hours long.

### **How many Information Sessions do I have to attend for the Military Academies?**

You only have to attend one Information Session for the Military Academies, regardless of the number of schools to which you apply.

### **How many information meetings do I have to attend for the IB High Schools?**

Highly qualified applicants will be invited to attend information meetings for the IB High Schools. You may be invited to as many IB schools to which you apply.

## Notification

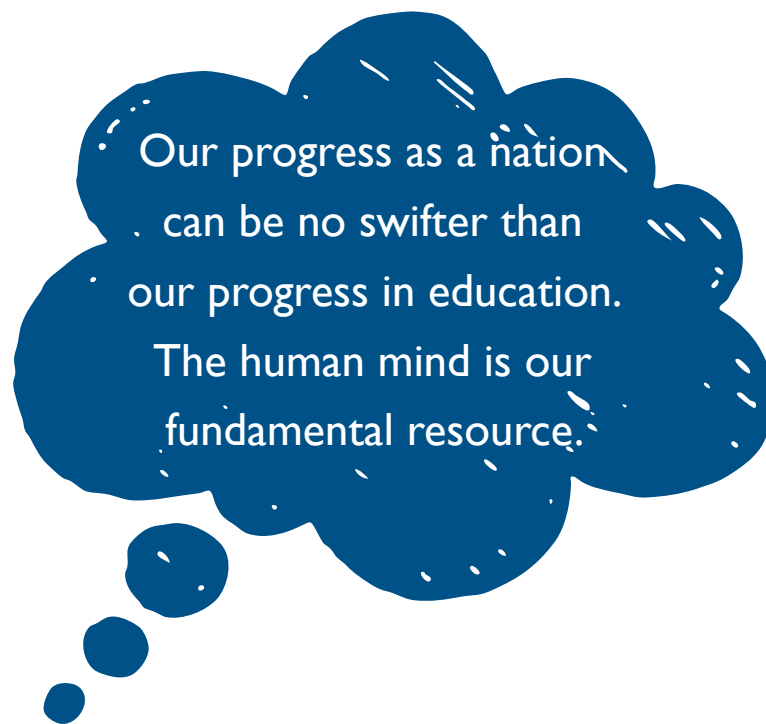
### **When will I find out the status of my applications?**

Letters of notification for district schools will be mailed to your home the week of February 18, 2013. For charter schools, contact the school to find out the school's notification date.

## School Profiles

The following section provides detailed profiles for all district and charter high schools. Each profile provides a wide variety of helpful information, including a map showing the school's location, specifics regarding the application and selection process, where to obtain the school's application, and other school-related particulars such as in-school programs, extracurricular activities, and sports. (Please note that additional extracurricular activities and sports can be found at [www.cpshighschooldirectory.com](http://www.cpshighschooldirectory.com), which allows you to search for schools according to your areas of interest.)

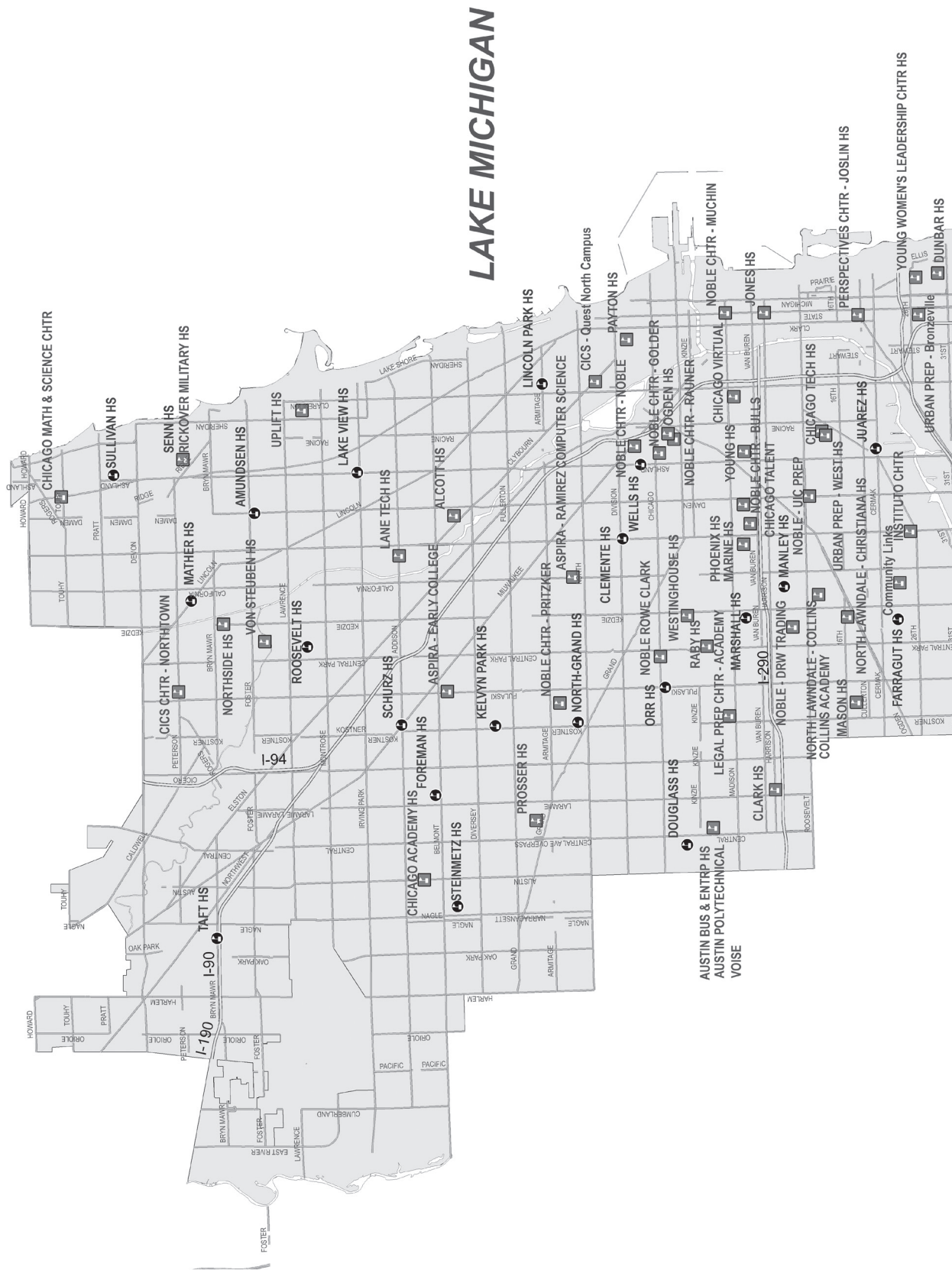
Additional district or charter high schools or high school programs may be approved by the Chicago Board of Education after the printing of this guide. Please check [www.cpsdae.org](http://www.cpsdae.org) and [www.cpshighschooldirectory.com](http://www.cpshighschooldirectory.com) for updates.



JOHN F. KENNEDY

THIRTY-FIFTH PRESIDENT  
OF THE USA

# CHICAGO





## Legend



Neighborhood Schools



Career Academies, Charter, Magnet, Military Academies,  
Small Schools, Selective Enrollment, and other  
non-attendance boundary schools



Office of Portfolio, Demographics

