Exam High School Admissions
Detroit, MI
April 27, 2021

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Detroit Public Schools Community District
Detroit’s Context

104 Schools serving K-12

Hyper-competitive market – Charter Schools, open enrollment with surrounding Districts

Resource limitations across Detroit – e.g., digital access

6 Exam High Schools

Drive DPSCD high school enrollment from out-of-district students

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DPSCD</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Public</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Detroit School Market

- DPSCD: 50.2%
- Charter: 40.1%
- Private: 9.2%
- Other Public: 0.5%
Application Requirements

**Online Application**
- 750-word essay written by the student
- Transcript/Report Card showing the two most recent school years and, if applicable, year-to-date progress reports
- Three references (contact information only)

**Exam**
- High School Placement Test
- Administered via paper/pencil
- No interruption in HSPT administration in 2020 or 2021
- The exam may be taken once each annual admission cycle
New Admission Process in 2018

**Old Process**

- Most students took the exam
- One round of applications
- Paper applications
- Appeal process that included students who didn’t take the exam, applied late
- Lack of transparency
- District 8th graders opted in

**New Process**

- All students take the exam
- Two rounds of application
- Online application
- Formal petition process that allows for school-level decision making
- Fully transparent process
- District 8th graders take the exam in school
Applications Increased After Process Changed

### DPSCD Examination High School Applications: 3-year Comparison*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Cycle</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>2018-19</th>
<th>2019-20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Applicants</strong></td>
<td>2,604</td>
<td>3,209</td>
<td>3,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% in district</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% out of district (OOD)</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Accepted</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Accepted - in district</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Accepted – OOD</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Enrolled (of Accepted)</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All data presented covers applications for grade 9, which represents the bulk of applications for Examination High Schools
Applications fell in Fall 2021; COVID 19 was a key driver

**Round 1 Applications: Fall 2019 vs. Fall 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Cycle</th>
<th>2019-20</th>
<th>2020-21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Round 1 Applicants</td>
<td>2,503</td>
<td>1,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% in district</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% out of district (OOD)</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Accepted</td>
<td>52.3%</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Accepted - in district</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Accepted – OOD</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
81% of Enrolled Students Live in Detroit

Student Demographics
2020-21 School Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Other or n/a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EHS Avg.*</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cass</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renaissance</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>.4%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>.1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marygrove</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Does not include 2 Exam schools that also have neighborhood boundaries
## Application Score breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Component</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examination</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Point Average</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student-Authored Essay</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPSCD Current Student Bonus</td>
<td>+10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA complete and on time</td>
<td>+5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marygrove applicants - Primary Area</td>
<td>+10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marygrove applicants - Secondary Area</td>
<td>+5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The GPA on-time bonus is applied to DPSCD students with 2 years of continuous enrollment and out-of-district students who submit transcript or set of report cards that meet our submission criteria by the application deadline.
Testing in a Pandemic

• Contactless sign-in and dismissal processes
• Social distancing and mask wearing strictly enforced
• Students are assigned staggered arrival times
• Maximum of 10 students per classroom; additional test dates
• More frequent cleaning of restrooms, common spaces, handrails, etc.
• Parents not allowed inside the building for arrival or dismissal.
**Scoring: Admissions Essays**

**Challenge:** Objectivity in scoring student essays.

- Scored by school counselors, who are grouped into cohorts that work for two to three days per round.
- Each essay is scored on a scale of 0-20 by at least two reviewers.
- Applications are randomly assigned to reviewers, who are given a user account for the application platform.
- Applications that receive two reviews that are 6 or more points apart receive a third or, if necessary, fourth review.
- The average score of all reviews becomes the student’s essay score.

**The essay rubric** is available to all applicants online.
If the report cards do not show the student's Cumulative Grade Point Average, one is calculated using the report cards submitted. Partially complete report cards earn a commensurate proportion of the available GPA points.

- GPA calculation is based on Math, ELA, Science and Social Studies grades only.
- Due to the interruption in school as a result of Covid-19, grades from Spring 2020 are not included in GPA calculations for Fall 2021 admissions.

Challenge: With applicants from more than 200 schools, we have to norm across different report card formats, courses taken and grades.

We use a common GPA calculation tool that offers flexibility across report card types (trimester, semester, annual, etc.) and qualifying subjects. Counselors enter the data and it calculates a GPA.
Bonus Points - Impact

The School at Marygrove is operated through a neighborhood partnership that has prioritized matriculation from within 2 miles of the campus. The school will eventually become a neighborhood school serving K-12 students.
Applicant Support

The District offers online support for families who need assistance with completing selective admission applications. The online support opportunities include phone/video calls, webinars, and open houses.

Phone/Video Support

- One-on-one application assistance with application
- 30-minute appointments conducted via Phone or Teams video

Application and School Webinars

- 1-2-hour informational webinar
- Webinars include an overview of schools, application process, and how to apply

Tutoring for District students

Phone/Video Support calls from October 2020 to Present
Equitable Access

- Distric 8th grade students take the exam during the school day. Due to the pandemic, testing is on an opt-in basis. Weekday and weekend options were offered.
- DPSCD students are offered free tutoring for the exam. They may participate in as many online sessions as desired.
- School counselors assist students with their applications. The application platform has a “collaboration” feature that allows students to share their in-progress application with teachers, counselors, mentors, etc. for support.
- Application completion help offered to all applicants.

Web site with resources: Detroitk12.org/examschools

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