

Other District Admissions Processes

Chicago Selective High School Admissions

An Overview of the SEHS Admission System in CPS

Students are admitted to a SEHS based on a combination of their application score, their neighborhood socioeconomic status (SES) classification, and the seats available at the SEHSs where they apply.

- **Application scores are comprised of:**
 - Seventh-grade GPA in math, English, science, and social studies;
 - Seventh-grade standardized test scores;
 - A selective enrollment admissions exam.
- **Each applicant is also assigned a SES “tier”:**
 - Each census tract in Chicago receives an SES index score based on indicators from the American Community Survey and neighborhood elementary school performance.
 - The census tracts are then equally divided into four tiers so that each tier contains approximately one-quarter of Chicago’s school-aged children. Tier 1 represents the lowest-SES quartile; tier 4, the highest-SES quartile.
- **Applicants can apply to and rank up to six SEHSs.**
- **How SEHS seats are allocated:**
 - At each SEHS, 30% of seats are allocated to top-scoring applicants, regardless of their SES tier.
 - Remaining seats are divided equally among the four SES tiers; 17.5% of seats are allocated to each SES tier.
 - Prior to 2010, the admission system allocated seats using student race/ethnicity instead of neighborhood SES.

For more details, see <https://go.cps.edu/explore/program-types>

More detail on the SES “tier”:

Each census tract in the city was assigned to one of four tiers using an index combining five variables: median family income; a measure of adult educational attainment; home ownership rates; and the prevalence of single-parent households and non-native English speakers. Schools first filled 40% of their slots with the applicants having the highest composite scores. The remaining 60% of slots were then filled by dividing the slots equally across the four tiers and filling the slots with the highest-scoring remaining students living in census tracts belonging to each tier. The system was modified in 2012: the number of tier-reserved slots was increased from 60% to 70% and a sixth variable (test scores in the local elementary school) was added to the index.

Source:

<https://consortium.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/2018-10/Selective%20Enrollment%20HS%20Snaps-hot-Feb%202018-Consortium.pdf>

Additional Detail on Chicago Admissions

- [Three criteria are used in applications](#), weighted equally. Applications are scored out of 900 points, with each criterion making up 300 points.
 - GPA includes reading, math, science and social studies
 - NWEA MAP percentiles on reading and math are multiplied by 1.515 for a maximum of 150 points each
 - Entrance exam percentiles are multiplied by 3.03 for a maximum score of 300 points
 - Website includes a [“points calculator”](#) to help applicants understand what score they need on the entrance exam.
- Invitations within socioeconomic tiers are distributed to the highest ranking applicants within the tier.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

- Utilizes socioeconomic status in the lottery process for magnet programs ([68 schools](#))
- Information comes from two sources:
 - Census / American Community Survey:
 - English Language Ability (i.e., whether or not English is “spoken” very well in the home)
 - Family Composition (i.e, is the home a single or multi-parent home)
 - Family Income
 - Home Ownership
 - Parental Education Attainment
 - Self-reported information
 - Household income
 - Educational attainment
 - Number of minors in the household
- Census information is used to identify low, medium and high SES status for each census block in the county. These categories are relative to each other and evenly divided across the county.
- Self-reported information is used to identify a second SES status for use in the lottery. For example, an affluent, college-educated couple living in a low SES block might have a lottery priority of low/high.
- There are 12 total designations (high | high, high | medium, high | low, high | null, etc), and the designations are used as priorities within the lottery process.