

February 25, 2014

**SELECTIVE ENROLLMENT ADMISSIONS SCORES CREEP UP DESPITE
THE ADDITION OF OVER 350 SEATS**

Chicago, IL – In the most recent round of admissions, average scores rose despite another massive increase in seats. While the largest additions occurred at Lane Tech (+175 seats) and Westinghouse (+80 seats) – nearly every school in the system added spots – heading off an even more dramatic score increase. Lane Tech average scores increased even though it added nearly 200 seats. Such a large increase in seats would normally bring down scores, not increase them.

Figure 1. Average Admissions Scores (2014-2015)

	2014-2015 average admissions scores	change in points 2013- 2014 to 2014-2015	change in seats (2014- 2015)	change in seats (2013- 2014)
Brooks	779	+13	+0	+0
Jones	871	+20	+20	+140
King	702	+0	+58	- 67
Lane	833	+8	+175	+100
Lindblom	765	+21	-49	+0
Northside	881	+2	+20	+5
Payton	888	+7	+9	+21
South Shore	696	-3	+5	+165
Westinghouse	759	+4	+80	+95
Young	872	+1	+29	-70
		total change in seats	+355	+389

It continues to be extremely difficult for Tier 3 and Tier 4 students to land a spot at the five most competitive schools. For example, assuming that a Tier 4 student received all A's in 7th Grade, he or she would *still* need to get scores in the top 11% on *both* the 7th grade standardized test *and* the Selective Enrollment Exam to meet the *minimum* cut-off at Lane Tech -- and the top 1-4% in test scores on *both* exams to get into *any* of the other top schools as shown below in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Required Tier 3 & 4 Test Scores (2014-2015)

	Tier 4 minimum score, 2014-2015	required Tier 4 test percentiles	Tier 3 minimum score, 2014-2015	required Tier 3 test percentiles
Jones	883	top 3%	857	top 8%
Lane Tech	836	top 11%	813	top 15%
Northside	894	top 2%	879	top 5%
Payton	896	top 1%	883	top 3%
Young	877	top 4%	857	top 8%

Northside and Payton continue to be the most competitive Selective Enrollment High Schools. Virtually perfect scores are needed to get in at the Rank, Tier 3 and Tier 4 levels. Significant numbers of Tier 4 -- and to a lesser extent Tier 3 students -- with nearly perfect scores continue to be rejected at these schools. The average score of an admitted Tier 4 and Tier 3 student at Northside was 895 and 888 respectively and for Payton 898 and 891. This meant that some Tier 4 and Tier 3 students in the top 2-3% in total possible points were not admitted.

The “gap” between the average score of an admitted Tier 4 and Tier 1 student ranged from 27 points (Payton) to 76 points (Lane Tech) as the academic caliber of admitted students at the more competitive schools continued to vary widely. However, the “gap” narrowed this year most notably at Jones (-35 points) and Payton (-27 points) as mean Tier 1 scores increased as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Score Gaps at Competitive Schools (2013-2014 through 2014-2015)

	2014-2015 Tier 4 average score	2014- 2015 Tier 1 average score	14-15 score “gap” between Tier 4 and Tier 1	13-14 score “gap” between Tier 4 and Tier 1	change in score “gap”
Jones	887	837	50	85	-35
Lane Tech	847	772	76	87	-11
Northside	895	838	57	60	-3
Payton	898	871	27	54	-27
Young	882	844	37	49	-12

South Shore, the newest Selective Enrollment High School, continued to struggle with low overall scores – only 696 on average. To put this score in perspective, a student with a 696 score could have 2Bs and 2Cs in 7th grade and only average test scores.

Moreover, South Shore was only able to attract 170 students who met the minimum cut-off of 650 despite having capacity for 60 additional spaces.

According to Matthew Greenberg, partner of educational services firm SelectivePrep, “The demand for high quality public high schools in Chicago continues to grow, pushing up the scores needed to secure a seat in a competitive Selective High School Enrollment School. As a result, academically talented Tier 3 and Tier 4 students – Chicago’s middle class -- find that their options are limited. Continuing to squeeze more and more students into existing schools is not a workable way to meet this demand.”

About SelectivePrep

SelectivePrep was founded by test prep veterans with over 25 years of test preparation experience – and extensive backgrounds in both classroom teaching and curriculum development. SelectivePrep offers the *only* classroom program that prepares students for both of the standardized tests needed to gain admission to a Selective Enrollment High School and Academic Center. SelectivePrep knows what it takes to train and motivate students who are intent upon gaining admission to one of the ten Chicago Selective Enrollment High Schools or one of seven Academic Centers. SelectivePrep’s programs provide a thorough and rigorous review of test content, so students can approach these competitive admissions processes with confidence.

For additional information and registration go to www.selectiveprep.com or call (312) 409-8411.