

February 7, 2012

**NORTHSIDE STUDENTS BIG LOSERS, SOUTH AND WEST SIDE STUDENTS
BIG WINNERS AS CPS REVISES ITS TIER DATA**

Chicago, IL – Getting into a top Selective Enrollment High School or Elementary School has just gotten a lot tougher for some students and a lot easier for others.

Last week CPS revised the data driving its Tier System for admitting students to Selective Enrollment Schools, replacing the previously used Census 2000 data with Census 2010 data. Seventy percent of all students applying to any selective school are chosen by their Tier Group. Students in higher Tier Groups (e.g., Tier 4 vs. Tier 1) must turn in dramatically higher academic performance to get into the most competitive schools – an average of about 50 points higher -- on the 900 point admissions scale.

The “losers” in this latest scheme are students living in areas of the City of Chicago who were moved to a higher Tier Group, and “winners” are students living in areas that were re-classified to a lower Tier. Among the neighborhood “losers” are Rogers Park, Uptown, Edgewater, Logan Square, Wicker Park, Ukrainian Village, and South Loop. Among the neighborhood “winners” are Gresham, Chatham, Morgan Park, Lawndale, Homan Square, West Englewood, Garfield Park, and Austin.

Click here to see the [new map](#).

About the Tier System

Two years ago, CPS adopted a socio-economic based admissions policy for all selective schools when the federal court system discarded the previously used race-based admissions policy.

Thirty percent of the seats at any of the selective schools are awarded based on a student’s academic performance in comparison with other students citywide. The remaining seventy percent of seats are awarded to students based on their test scores and grades in comparison with other students in their socio-economic Tier, with each Tier receiving 17.5% of the slots.

CPS has grouped each of the City of Chicago’s 874 census tracts into four Tier Groups based on 6 socio-economic factors: median family income, percentage of owner occupied homes, percentage of single family households, adult educational level,

percentage of non-English speakers, and school quality. Census tracts deemed to have more favorable socio-economic factors are grouped into higher Tiers and tracts with less favorable ones are grouped into lower Tiers. Any student in the City of Chicago is grouped into a specific Tier based on his/her home address – and how the census tract that this address falls into has been rated by CPS.

How the Tier System Affects Admissions Results

In last year’s admissions process, students in Tiers 3 and 4 needed to get much higher scores to be admitted to the more competitive schools than students in lower Tier Groups. Mean scores from last year’s round of admissions for the more competitive schools are shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Mean Admissions Scores (2011-2012)

	Northside	Payton	Whitney Young High School	Lane Tech High School	Jones	Whitney Young Academic Center	Lane Tech Academic Center
Tier 1	846	849	819	741	816	796	781
Tier 2	865	865	832	776	832	830	795
Tier 3	889	884	856	800	862	835	810
Tier 4	894	892	872	806	873	846	820
<i>“gap” between Tier 1 & Tier 4 scores</i>	48	43	53	65	57	50	39

According to Matthew Greenberg, partner of educational services firm SelectivePrep, “Gentrification is revitalizing neighborhoods and renewing the city’s tax base. Additionally, all over the city parents are moving into desirable neighborhoods so their children can attend a good neighborhood school. It’s ironic that these decisions could make the high school admissions process more difficult later on.”

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 the Academic Center Admissions Test. SelectivePrep knows what it takes to train and motivate students who are intent upon gaining admission to one

of the nine 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.