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for a **FREE High School Admissions Seminar**

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Getting into a Great High School

A Newsletter Focused on the Selective Enrollment High School Admissions Process

Get Ready, Get Prepped, Get In!

Spring 2010, Volume 4

Navigating the Admissions Maze

Admissions requirements for *all* test-in schools have changed significantly. Key differences include:

Change #1: Socio-economic Criteria In; Racial Criteria Out

The first 40% of available slots at each school are filled on the basis of merit only (test scores and grades). The remaining 60% are divided equally among four Tiers (15% each). Within each Tier, slots are distributed on the basis of merit only. Therefore, each student has the opportunity to apply for 55% of a school's available slots.

Every student is assigned to one of four Tiers according to his/her elementary school

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address of record, not individual circumstances. These Tiers are groups of census tracts that have been rated by CPS according to various socio-economic criteria. Students in higher number Tiers live in neighborhoods that have more favorable socio-economic criteria (higher income, fewer single parents, etc.)

Continued on next page.

Upcoming Events

FREE SelectivePrep High School Admissions Seminar

Master the complexities of the Selective Enrollment and Academic Center admissions processes.

Register now for a FREE SelectivePrep High School Admissions Seminar.

- Saturday, Aug. 28th
- Saturday, Sept. 18th

It's FREE, but space is limited.

Walter Payton College Preparatory High School
 Northside College Preparatory High School
 Whitney M. Young Magnet High School
 Lane Tech College Preparatory High School
 Jones College Preparatory School
 Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy
 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. College Preparatory High School
 Robert Lindblom Math and Science Academy

Where will YOUR child go to high school?



Are You Smarter Than A 6th Grader?

To find out more about SelectivePrep's Academic Center Admissions Test Preparation Program, go to www.selectiveprep.com/6th-academic-center-overview

Q: The Griswold family has six children: Becky, Charlie, David, Edith, Francine and Gabe. They are in grades one, two, three, four, five and six. David is two grades behind Gabe and two grades ahead of Becky. Francine is in 1st grade. Edith is younger than Charlie. Who is in 3rd grade?

- Becky
- Charlie
- David
- Edith

A: d. Edith. Since Francine is first, and since Becky, David and Gabe need a width of 5 grades, then the only open spaces are 3rd and 5th. If Edith is younger than Charlie, Edith must be in third.

Q: What is the next number in this series: 6 - 6 - 12 - 36?

- 72
- 108
- 144
- 320

A: c. 144. $6 \times 1 = 6$, $6 \times 2 = 12$, and $12 \times 3 = 36$. Each number equals the previous number multiplied by a value that increases by 1 each time. The next number will be 36×4 , or 144.

Navigating the Maze continued

SelectivePrep Note: Make sure that you know what address your elementary school has on record. If your personal situation provides you with a choice of addresses, use the address in the lower Tier for admissions purposes.

Change #2: 7th Grade Attendance Out

In past years, 7th grade attendance was worth 100 points with 2 points deducted for each day of unexcused absences. This year attendance was removed and admissions scores were computed on a 900 point vs. 1,000 point scale.

SelectivePrep Note: The good news is that you no longer have to worry about losing points by missing a couple of days in 7th grade. However, the removal of attendance increases the impact of test scores and grades by 10% in total. Now 7th grade

What's New at SelectivePrep?

Current 7th and 8th Graders: In April 2010, SelectivePrep launched a NEW Algebra Exit Exam Program.

To learn more, go to <http://tinyurl.com/yc473pj>

grades, 7th grade test scores and the Selective Enrollment Entrance Exam score are each worth 33 %, up from 30% each previously.

Change #3: Only One Selection

In the past, students could receive multiple offers. Now students get only one offer, their highest ranked school that their point total qualifies them for.

SelectivePrep Note: Rank your schools carefully but feel free to be bold. If you don't get into your top choice, you can still get into another one.

Selective Enrollment Admissions Scores, 2010 - 2011

	2009 - 2010 Points	2010 - 2011 Points	2010 - 2011 "With Attendance"	Change In Scores
Brooks	874	775	864	-10
Jones	923	853	946	+23
King	838	731	820	-19
Lane Tech	909	815	907	-2
Lindblom	832	725	814	-18
Northside	985	887	983	-3
Payton	962	888	982	+20
Young	965	868	962	-3
Westinghouse	861	754	844	-17

Note: Analysis is based on preliminary CPS data. Numbers may shift slightly as second round selections and principal discretion choices are completed.

AND THE RESULTS ARE...

To compare scores we "added back" this admissions component by assuming that admitted students would miss the same number of days this year as last year.

We asked parents for information about their child's Selective Enrollment Exam scores and their success in the admissions process. These quotes come from their feedback on their child's performance.

"Here's the best part: on her Selective Enrollment test, she obtained a 99% in math, a 99% in reading, a 98% in language, for a total of 99%! Our daughter said that your program, and especially the wonderful teacher that she had helped get her these scores!"

"My daughter's admissions scores were a perfect 900. She was accepted into Lincoln Park IB, St. Ignatius and Northside College Prep! She jumped for pure joy when she opened the envelope."

"The preparation you provided made all the difference in getting accepted into Jones. Put us down as one happy customer. We have highly recommended your program."

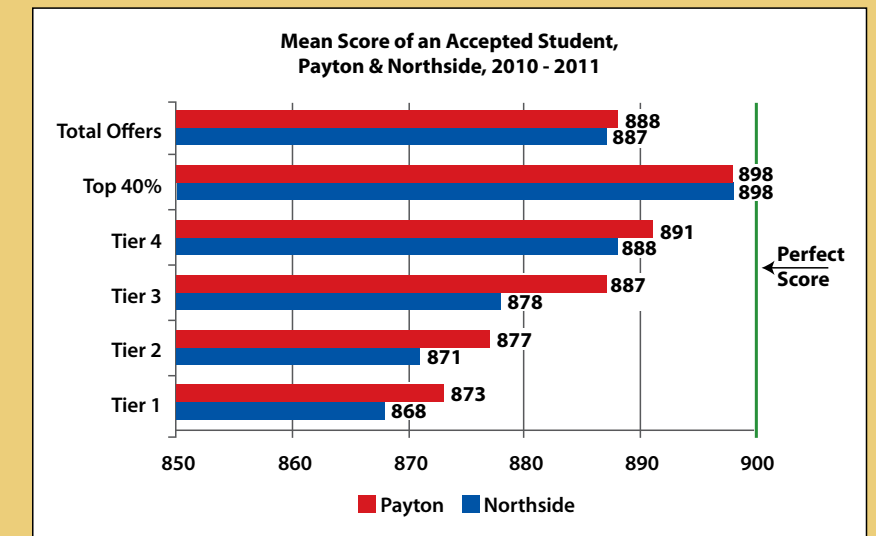
"My son just got into the Lane Tech Alpha Program. Thanks for all of the help you gave him. We'll be seeing you in two years when our daughter will be getting ready for high school."

"I have been accepted at Northside College Prep with a perfect score for the entrance exam. Thank you for your great program!"

Behind the Numbers

Observation 1: Perfect performance needed for entry into top two schools

Most of the students accepted at both Northside (mean of 887) and Payton (mean of 888) received a perfect or near perfect score!



Observation 2: Point spread between schools increases

- North side and downtown scores remained either flat at fairly high levels (Northside (-3), Young (-3), and Lane Tech (-2) or jumped dramatically (Jones (+23) and Payton (+20).
- West side (Westinghouse (-17) and south side schools (Brooks (-10), King (-18), and Lindblom (-18) all dropped significantly.

Observation 3: Admissions requirements tighten for downtown and northside schools

Here's what we think students need to achieve to get in:

- Northside and Payton.** All A's in 7th grade and scores in the top 5% on *both* tests.
- Young and Jones.** All A's in 7th grade and scores in the top 10% on *both* tests, or one B and 3 A's and scores in the top 5% on both tests.
- Lane Tech.** Two B's and top 5% on both tests or straight A's and top 15% on *both* tests.

SelectivePrep Selective Enrollment Exam Preparation

Current 7th graders: Excel on the Selective Enrollment Entrance Exam. Registration is now open for **October 2010** classes to prepare for the December/January Entrance Exam.