



Current 7th graders:

Excel on the Selective Enrollment Entrance Exam. Registration is now open for September 2013 classes to prepare for the December/January Entrance Exam.



Getting into a Great High School

A Newsletter Focused on the Selective Enrollment High School Admissions Process

Get Ready, Get Prepped, Get In!

Spring 2013, Volume 7

Additional Seats Relieve Selective Enrollment Score Pressure

Average admissions scores declined across the board as nearly 400 seats were added to Selective Enrollment High Schools. Scores fell slightly at the top schools (Northside,

Selective Enrollment Admissions Scores (2013-2014)

	2013-2014 composite score	year-to-year change in scores	year-to-year change in seats
Brooks	765	-11 points	+0 seats
Jones	852	-10 points	+140 seats
King	701	-15 points	-67 seats ¹
Lane	825	-8 points	+100 seats
Lindblom	806	-18 points	+0 seats
Northside	879	-1 points	+5 seats
Payton	881	-6 points	+21 seats
South Shore	699	NA	+165 seats
Westinghouse	755	-13 points	+95 seats
Young	871	0 points	-70 seats

¹The number of seats declined at King because too few qualified Tier 4 students applied.

Upcoming Events

SelectiveMath Summer Classes (August 2013)

Registration is **NOW OPEN** for 6th and 7th Grade Math Enrichment (current 5th and 6th graders), **Algebra I** (current 7th and 8th graders), and **Geometry I** (current 8th and 9th graders). Enjoy a weeklong workshop designed for creative students who are ready to tackle challenging math problems and puzzles – and have fun!

FREE SelectivePrep High School Admissions Seminar (August 24th & September 21st)

Parents of current 5th, 6th and 7th graders -- master the complexities of the Selective Enrollment and Academic Center admissions process by attending one of these free seminars.

Selective Enrollment Exam Preparation (September 2013)

Attention current 7th grade parents -- registration is **NOW OPEN** for fall classes to prepare for the December/January Entrance Exam.

Walter Payton College Preparatory High School
 Northside College Prep
 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
 Westinghouse College Prep

Where will YOUR child go to high school?



Invest In Your Child's Future

Payton and Young), a bit more noticeably at Jones and Lane, and even more elsewhere. The drop in scores at Jones (+140 seats) and Lane (+100 seats) appears to be caused by the larger number of spots offered at both schools. Other schools adding seats included Westinghouse (+95 seats), and Payton (+21 seats) and a new school, South Shore (+165 seats) opened its doors.

Despite the additional seats, Tier 4 students felt little relief at the more competitive Selective Enrollment High Schools. Tier 4 mean scores at Jones, Lane Tech, Northside, Payton and Young remained high – ranging

Score "Gaps" between Tier 4 & Tier 1 Mean Scores, 2013-2014

	Tier 4 mean score, 2013-2014	Tier 1 mean score, 2013-2014	2013-2014 score "gap" between Tier 4 and Tier 1	year-to-year change in "gap"	year-to-year change in Tier 1 mean score
Jones	872	786	85	+13	-21
Lane Tech	842	755	87	+11	-20
Northside	894	834	60	+15	-7
Payton	895	842	54	+24	-21
Young	882	833	49	-2	-1

from 842 at Lane to 895 at Payton.

Score "Gaps" Grow Even Larger

The "gap" between the mean score of an admitted Tier 4 and Tier 1 student ranged from 49 points

(Young) to 87 points (Lane Tech) as the academic caliber of admitted students at the more competitive schools continued to vary widely. The "gap" increased this year, particularly at Payton. Most of this

"gap" increase can be attributed to a decline in Tier 1 mean scores, especially at Jones, Lane Tech and Payton, as students with reduced academic credentials were accepted to meet the Tier 1 "quota".



To find out more about SelectiveMath's Summer Math Programs, go to www.selectivemath.com

Common Core Toughens Math Assessments

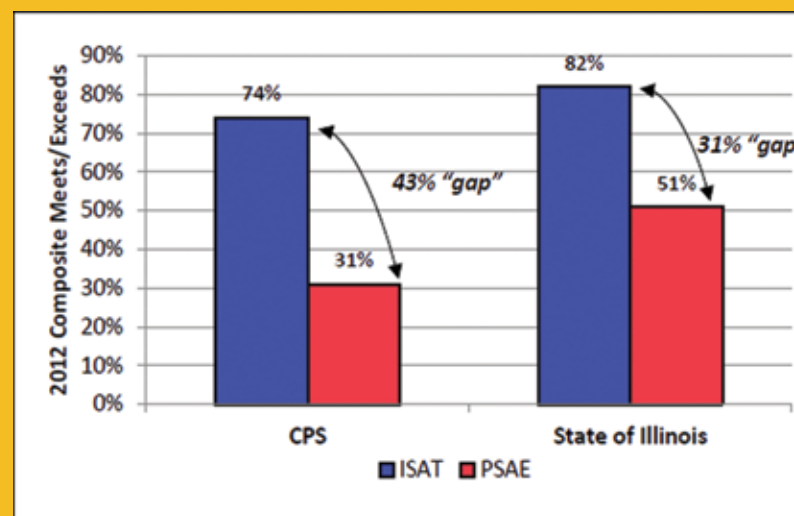
The State of Illinois has incorporated Common Core content into its assessments two years sooner than originally announced. In March 2013, 20-30% of ISAT items reflected Common Core standards. This number will double to 40-50% in 2014 and reach 100% in 2015. Because the Common Core has become a national standard, private school students who take the Terra Nova, Stanford and Iowa will also face more rigorous Common Core math test items as test publishers become Common Core compliant.

The ISAT is considered one of the least rigorous among the 50 mandated state assessments, particularly in math – ranking as low as 48 among 50. The incorporation of Common Core standards will increase the difficulty of tests nationwide – but will have a particularly large impact on the math portion of weaker tests – like the ISAT.

2013 ISAT Performance to Plunge

Many administrators and parents across Chicago take pride in the high percentage of their students that "meet" or "exceed" ISAT standards. However, changes will occur in 2013 that are expected to dramatically lower these percentages by 35% or more.

In 2013 the State of Illinois raised its ISAT "meets/exceeds" benchmark to be better aligned with PSAE standards. The PSAE measures high school student college readiness and incorporates the widely used ACT Exam. Critics have maintained that the misalignment between the elementary school



benchmark (ISAT) and the PSAE has provided misleading information to parents about their child's true college readiness.

In 2012, 74% of CPS students met or exceeded ISAT standards while only 31% met or exceeded PSAE standards. This has led to a "gap" in CPS ISAT vs. PSAE performance of 43%. Closing this gap by increasing ISAT benchmark scores to better align with PSAE achievement will lead to a significant drop – 35% or more-- in the percent of CPS students who meet or exceed ISAT standards.

Academic Center Scores Jump

Composite scores rose at all of the competitive Academic Centers and huge gaps between Tier 4 and Tier 1 scores persisted at the top schools. Kenwood and Taft composite scores shot up the most -- rising 38 and 26 points respectively. This was for two reasons. First, greater numbers of qualified students applied to Academic Centers. Second, an increasing number of students targeting Whitney Young or Lane Tech found themselves with an offer for Kenwood or Taft instead. Scores at Lane Tech moved up significantly and Whitney Young scores, already at stratospheric levels, edged up as well, shutting out many high scoring students.

Academic Center Admissions Scores (2013-2014)

	2013-2014 composite mean1	year-to-year change	2012-2013 composite mean	2013-2014 "gap" between Tier 4 and Tier 1 students
Harlan	615	-1	616	-15
Kenwood	747	+38	709	16
Lane Tech	817	+10	807	97
Lindblom	734	+13	721	23
Morgan Park	684	-19	703	14
Taft	787	+26	761	114
Young	850	+3	847	65

1The same ratio of seats between the different admissions categories was used in 2013-2014 as the previous year to calculate the composite mean.

This year's increase in scores at Lane Tech puts it closer to the most competitive Academic Center, Whitney Young. For most admissions categories, mean scores at Whitney Young were only 25 points higher than those needed for admissions to Lane Tech. The small spread of only 9 points between Tier 4 minimum and maximum scores at both Lane Tech and Whitney Young -- and the high overall scores needed by Tier 4 students to get into either of these schools means that some outstanding students – students with a perfect 5th grade report card and test scores in the top 3% -- were not accepted by either school.

Lane Tech Academic Center Admissions Scores (2013-2014)

	Lane Tech mean admissions score, 2013-2014	Lane Tech mean admissions score, 2012-2013	year-to-year change	Spread within each Tier	difference between Young and Lane Tech mean scores
Rank	856	844	+12	35	28
Tier 1	743	767	-24	97	57
Tier 2	796	766	+29	61	35
Tier 3	825	809	+15	33	25
Tier 4	840	821	+12	9	25