

**April 2, 2018**

**TOP SELECTIVE ENROLLMENT HIGH SCHOOL SCORES SIMMER –  
WHILE BOTTOM STAGNATES**

**Chicago, IL** – In the most recent round of Selective Enrollment High School admissions, scores at the top five schools rose an average of 7 points while scores at the bottom three schools fell an average of 11 points as shown in Figure 1. Admissions scores at competitive schools were propelled by a significant climb in Tier 1 scores and continued upward creep in Tier 4 scores. At the same time, scores for the bottom ranked Selective Enrollment High Schools slid downwards as academically advanced students across all four Tiers shunned them.

**Figure 1. Average Admissions Scores (2018-2019)**

	<b>2018-2019 average admissions scores</b>	<b>2017-2018 average admissions scores</b>	<b>change in points</b>
Payton	886	881	+5
Northside	878	877	+1
Jones	876	868	+8
Young	872	863	+9
Lane	841	831	+10
Brooks	775	770	+5
Hancock	775	768	+7
Lindblom	755	749	+6
Westinghouse	738	741	-3
King	652	666	-14
South Shore	645	660	-15

In the most recent admissions cycle, cut-off off scores for Tier 1 students at the more competitive schools rose sharply – increasing on average about 30 points, as shown in Figure 2. Tier 4 cut-offs, already impressively high, continued to inch upwards, increasing on average 5 points. Despite the significant climb in Tier 1 cut-offs, huge gaps between Tier 4 and Tier 1 cut-off scores persisted, averaging about 100 points across the top five schools.

**Figure 2. Competitive Cut-Off Scores (2018-2019)**

	<b>Tier 4 cut-off score</b>	<b>change in points</b>	<b>Tier 1 cut-off score</b>	<b>change in points</b>	<b>2018-2019 “gap” between Tier 4 &amp; Tier 1 cut-off</b>
Payton	896	+2	808	+37	88
Northside	891	+4	787	+30	104
Jones	883	+6	801	+23	82
Young	876	+8	814	+34	62
Lane	849	+4	723	+31	126

Getting into one of the top five schools became even more of a challenge for Tier 4 students. Figure 3 shows what a Tier 4 student with straight A’s would need at a minimum to get admitted into each of the top Selective Enrollment High Schools. For example, a student in a Tier 4 neighborhood would have to get all A’s in 7<sup>th</sup> grade core subjects, a minimum of 91% on both sections of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade MAP test and a minimum of 91% on the Selective Enrollment Exam to get into Lane Tech. To get into either Payton or Northside a Tier 4 student would need virtually perfect performance in all three areas.

**Figure 3. Minimum Tier 4 Student Performance, 2018-2019**

	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Grades</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade MAP test scores</b>	<b>Selective Enrollment Exam scores</b>
Payton	straight A’s	98%	98%
Northside	straight A’s	97%	97%
Jones	straight A’s	96%	96%
Young	straight A’s	95%	95%
Lane	straight A’s	91%	91%

At the same time, the two schools at the bottom, King and South Shore, continued to struggle to attract academically advanced students. Using the same benchmark (all A’s in 7<sup>th</sup> grade core subjects for comparison purposes), students needed only to get about a minimum of 60% on both the 7<sup>th</sup> grade MAP and Selective Enrollment Exam across all Tiers to get into either of these schools as shown in Figure 4 below.

**Figure 4. Minimum Student Performance for King & South Shore**

	<b>Mean Admissions Score (2018-2019)</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Grades</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade MAP test scores</b>	<b>Selective Enrollment Exam scores</b>
King	652	straight A's	60%	60%
South Shore	645	straight A's	60%	60%

Overall demand for spaces at Selective Enrollment High Schools continued to be strong in the most recent admissions cycle – particularly for the top schools. However, scores also showed how schools within the Selective Enrollment family split into three sub groups with a spread of over 100 points between each group. The “top five” schools (Payton, Northside, Jones, Young, Lane Tech) had an average admissions score of 871 across the Tiers, the “middle four” (Brooks, Hancock, Lindblom, Westinghouse) had an average admissions score of 761, and the “bottom two” (King, South Shore) had an average admissions score of 649.

Schools in the middle and bottom are geographically distant from most Tier 3 and Tier 4 neighborhoods and have trouble attracting the most academically advanced students. Average scores for the two bottom schools – King (652 points) and South Shore (645 points) remained at levels barely above the minimally qualifying level of 600 points.

According to Matthew Greenberg, partner of educational services firm SelectivePrep, “High scores at the top five schools reinforce their attractiveness to students throughout the City of Chicago. Regardless of their Tier, parents want a spot at these schools, confident in their academic rigor and their ability to deliver a quality education. He continued, “The uptick in Tier 4 cut-off scores continues to squeeze middle class students applying to a competitive Selective Enrollment High School. To get in, students in Tier 4 neighborhoods have little room for error. Straight A’s and test scores of 91% or higher are required. At the same time, these schools are increasingly preferred by academically advanced Tier 1 students over other Selective Enrollment High Schools that are much closer to them.”

### **About SelectivePrep**

SelectivePrep was founded over a decade ago 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 eleven 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](http://www.selectiveprep.com) or call (312) 409-8411.