

**April 3, 2019**

### **HUGE SCORE GAPS EMERGE IN LATEST ADMISSIONS ROUND**

**Chicago, IL** – In the most recent round of Selective Enrollment High School admissions, average Tier 1 scores at the top five schools dropped an average of 17 points while average Tier 4 scores, with little opportunity for improvement were flat. In fact, plummeting Tier 1 scores kept a lid on the average scores at the top five schools and indeed across nearly all Selective Enrollment schools. For example, a dramatic 45-point slide in average Tier 1 scores at Northside dropped the overall score for the new Northside student body, and moved Northside into a tie with Young for 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

**Figure 1. Average Admissions Scores (2019-2020)<sup>1</sup>**

	<b>2019-2020 average admissions scores</b>	<b>2018-2019 average admissions scores</b>	<b>change in points</b>
Payton	886	886	0
Jones	873	876	-4
Northside	869	878	-9
Young	869	872	-3
Lane	844	841	+3
Hancock	791	775	+17
Brooks	770	775	-5
Westinghouse	744	738	+7
Lindblom	743	755	-12
South Shore	664	645	+19
King	661	652	+9

<sup>1</sup>Numbers in Figure 1. are rounded.

With the significant decline in Tier 1 cut-offs, huge gaps between Tier 4 and Tier 1 cut-off scores grew even wider, averaging 124 points across the top five schools as shown in Figure 2 below.

**Figure 2. Competitive Cut-Off Scores (2019-2020)**

	<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>2019-2020 “gap” between Tier 4 &amp; Tier 1 cut-off</b>
Payton	894	-2	792	-16	102 points
Northside	888	-3	713	-45	175 points
Jones	883	+2	773	-20	110 points
Young	871	-5	788	-26	83 points
Lane	859	+10	711	-5	148 points

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 92% on both sections of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade MAP test and a minimum of 92% on the Selective Enrollment Exam to get into Lane Tech. This is up from a minimum of 90% on all tests the prior year. An increase of “only 2 percent” is an important score uptick that can impact middle class students’ admissions success given Lane Tech’s size. Finally, to get into either Payton, Northside or Jones a Tier 4 student would need virtually perfect performance in all three areas.

**Figure 3. Minimum Tier 4 Student Performance, 2019-2020**

	<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	92%	92%

Figure 1 also shows how schools within the Selective Enrollment family are still divided into three sub groups with a spread of about 100 points between each group. The “top five” schools (Payton, Northside, Jones, Young, Lane Tech) with an average admissions score of 868 across the Tiers, the “middle four” (Brooks, Hancock, Lindblom, Westinghouse) with an average admissions score of 762, and the “bottom two” (King, South Shore) with an average admissions score of 663.

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 (661 points) and South Shore (664 points) remained at levels marginally above the minimally qualifying level of 600 points.

Despite an average increase of 9 and 19 points respectively, 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% or 62% 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 (2019-2020)</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	661	straight A’s	60%	60%
South Shore	664	straight A’s	62%	62%

Hancock pulled ahead of Brooks for the first time as Hancock scores increased across *all* Tiers as shown in Figure 4 below. Hancock joined the Selective Enrollment family five years ago – debuting with a respectable average admissions score of 733 – but has moved up to 791 most recently. Unlike prior years, where Tier 4 scores have been stagnant, this past year Tier 4 scores made a huge jump. Sparking this increase is probably the recent announcement by CPS of its commitment to build a new state-of-the-art building for Hancock.

**Figure 5. Hancock Admissions Scores, 2019-2020**

	<b>2019-2020 average admissions scores</b>	<b>2018-2019 average admissions scores</b>	<b>change in points</b>
Tier 1 mean	751	745	+6
Tier 2 mean	787	776	+11
Tier 3 mean	800	772	+28
Tier 4 mean	743	699	+44
Rank	841	837	+4

According to Matthew Greenberg, partner of educational services firm SelectivePrep, “This year’s collapse in Tier 1 scores means that Tier 1 students will be entering competitive Selective Enrollment schools with a significantly lower levels of academic preparation and may be in different academic tracts as they move through high school. At the same time, high cut-off scores continue 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.”

### **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 succeed in the competitive admissions process.

For additional information and registration go to [www.selectiveprep.com](http://www.selectiveprep.com) or call (312) 409-8411.