Chicago Public Schools Announce New Policy for Admission to Selective Enrollment and Magnet Schools

Topics: admission, chicago, magnet schools, policy, public schools, selective enrollment

Socio-economic data will be used instead of race-based criteria to maintain socio-economic diversity in selective enrollment and magnet schools
Chicago Public Schools officials today unveiled a policy proposal that would utilize socio-economic factors drawn from U.S. Census tract data for admissions to the District’s selective enrollment and magnet schools.

CPS officials will present the proposal to replace the race-based admissions policy that had been in effect as part of a longstanding desegregation consent decree to the Chicago Board of Education at its Dec. 16 meeting.

The goal of the policy is to maintain, and in some cases increase, socio-economic diversity in selective enrollment and magnet CPS schools, officials said.

The policy will be reviewed and adjusted if needed after the 2010-11 school year.

“Diverse learning communities benefit all students by better preparing them to live in a diverse society and to compete in a global economy,” said Ron Huberman, Chicago Public Schools chief executive officer, during a press conference at the District’s headquarters.

Huberman was joined at the press conference by Chicago Board of Education and elected officials, and by community leaders from throughout Chicago.

“We are committed to a fair process for all families who seek admission to our selective enrollment and magnet programs, and we believe that economic diversity in our schools will promote equitable educational outcomes for applicants in all communities of our city.

“To address a potential burden on families with more than one child in CPS, these proposed policies also ease access into these schools for the siblings of students who are already enrolled.”

In 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. Constitution does not permit school districts to classify and assign students on the basis of race or national origin.

Since 1980, Chicago Public Schools had been operating under a consent decree which mandated that a race-based system be used for student admission to selective enrollment and magnet schools.

The goal of the consent decree was to create desegregated schools, defined as 15-35 percent white and 65-85 percent minority.

On Sept. 24, U.S. District Court Judge Charles Kocoras vacated the decree. The court found that CPS had eliminated the last vestiges of past discrimination.

In anticipation of such a ruling, CPS began to develop a new admissions process two years ago. However, although requested by the District, no transition time was granted by the court and a new policy must be in place for the next school year.

The shift to a policy that uses socio-economic criteria means:

- Student addresses will identify the census tract in which the applicant lives. The data will describe the characteristics of the applicant’s neighborhood, not the individual.
- Socio-economic data will be drawn from updated census data for each census tract.
- Each tract will be assigned a socio-economic score based on median family income, adult educational attainment, percentage of owner-occupied homes, percentage of single-parent homes and percentage of households where a language besides English is spoken in the home.
- The tracts will be arranged into four groups with a similar number of students in each group.
- Subject to the applicant pool, any subsequent group-based lottery or procedure will pull an equal number of students from each group.

“We believe that this policy change gives us the tools necessary to structure an appropriate student mix in CPS selective enrollment and magnet schools, and provide those students with the best possible educational opportunities,” Huberman said.

The Board will be further presented with new policies including:

- For magnet schools, all siblings of existing students will be admitted providing seats are available, with 50 percent of any remaining seats going into a proximity lottery. Proximity is defined as living within 1.5-miles of an elementary school or a 2.5-mile radius of a high school. Any additional remaining seats will be filled via a citywide socio-economic group-based lottery. Previously sibling admissions were capped at 45 percent and proximity preference was given only if the entire school had less than 30 percent proximity enrollment.
- For selective enrollments, half the students will be admitted on pure test score rank order and the other half by test score rank order within the socio-economic groups. Selective enrollment applicants will now receive one offer that best matches their qualifications and the preference they indicated on their application.

District officials have already begun substantial outreach on the proposal, explaining the proposed policy to various officials, organizations and community stakeholders.

Those outreach efforts will continue in the coming weeks and include a series of town hall meetings in various parts of the city.
The initial public meetings include:

- Saturday, November 14, 10 a.m.-noon, at Andrew Jackson Elementary Language Academy, 1340 W. Harrison St.
- Monday, November 16, 6-8 p.m., Little Village High School, 3120 S. Kostner Ave.
- Tuesday, November 17, 6-8 p.m., King College Prep High School, 4445 S. Drexel Blvd.
- Thursday, November 19, 6-8 p.m., Amundsen High School, 5110 N. Damen Ave.
- Friday, November 20, 6-8 p.m., Simeon High School, 8147 S. Vincennes Ave.
- Saturday, November 21, 10 a.m.-noon, Westinghouse High School, 3223 W. Franklin Blvd.

**Chicago Public Schools in the News**

View Admissions policy news coverage about the Chicago Public Schools.

[Chicago Sun-Times](http://chicagopressrelease.com/press-releases/chicago-public-s...)

**About Chicago Public Schools**

Chicago Public Schools serves 417,855 students in 675 schools. It is the nation’s third-largest school district.

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Jessica Rios  
Feb 26, 2010 16:35

Hi my name is Jessica  
I’m a 8 grader and i really want to go to Lane Tech but my total points is 370 is there a chance I can get in?

**Leave a Reply**

Name - required

Email - required, never published
Woman says she was abused at Mother McAuley H.S.
With 35 comments since 2010-02-24 16:16:26

Carol Stream man fatally struck by freight train
Libertyville man dies after being stabbed while trying to stop fight
With 9 comments since 2010-02-15 11:53:28

Oak Forest student suspended over Facebook comments
With 8 comments since 2010-02-20 04:33:57

Oak Lawn Army vet charged with murder in wife's shooting death
With 7 comments since 2010-02-28 19:31:22

Senate prepares for confirmation vote on Illinois State Police director
With 4 comments since 2010-02-11 12:44:00

Wheaton residents concerned over coyotes
With 4 comments since 2010-02-16 23:31:39

Pedestrian struck, killed by train in Lombard
With 4 comments since 2010-02-21 14:43:23

Casting call out for South Side reality show a la 'Jersey Shore'
With 4 comments since 2010-03-02 05:17:39

Police find knife used in Mokena murder
With 3 comments since 2010-02-16 14:30:35

Social media at work — ban or boon?
Monday, March 8, 2010 9:53 - 0 Comments

Gamers pumped up for ‘God of War III’
Monday, March 8, 2010 9:52 - 0 Comments

Jobs picture improves slightly
Monday, March 8, 2010 9:27 - 0 Comments

AIG sells Alico unit to MetLife for $15.5B
Monday, March 8, 2010 9:27 - 0 Comments

McDonald’s key sales figure rises in February
Monday, March 8, 2010 9:27 - 0 Comments

Employers vs. consumers: Who will blink?
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Dense fog slows traffic
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Wrenching decisions haunt Haiti rescue surgeon
Monday, March 8, 2010 8:25 - 0 Comments

Cops: man spits at, punches ER doc
Monday, March 8, 2010 8:25 - 0 Comments

11 injured in crash
Monday, March 8, 2010 7:59 - 0 Comments

I know some girl who dated him and she has 2 kids.. its sickening ! i can't beli...
Said leslie on 2010-03-08 09:30:05

So do you have to have a front license plate in illinois as of 2010? im confused...
Said Blake on 2010-03-07 21:50:09

this is some bullshit!!!! Quinn needs to get his shit straight and give the damn...
Said ken on 2010-03-07 15:58:00

My husband is being held in idoc custody because they are not giving the inmates...
Said Christina on 2010-03-06 22:18:14
- Why would a daycare have only a 2MM GL/Umb insurance limit? Hope their agent got...

Said LLK on 2010-03-06 22:17:18
- I drove through Lake in the Hills/Algonquin today and was almost in an accident ...

Said Scared Citizen on 2010-03-06 20:44:28
- I have collected coins for over 35 years, I also tried to help younger kids try ...

Said Charles W. Bankhead on 2010-03-06 20:42:07
- Those shows are great. They are before the summer season for RV'ing. You don't g...

Said Marlan AT rv52 on 2010-03-06 19:23:12
- Alderman Austin is correct. It is open season on Black and Brown men and women ...

Said Emily Santos on 2010-03-06 16:04:24
- The autism epidemic is real, but the reasons behind it may shock you. Yes, there...

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