

**ADOPT NEW CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS' SELECTIVE ENROLLMENT  
HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Chicago Board of Education ("Board") adopt the new Chicago Public Schools' Selective Enrollment High School Admissions Policy For Students With Disabilities.

**Introduction**

The Board recognizes its obligations to provide students with disabilities an appropriate opportunity to demonstrate that they can benefit from attending a Chicago Public Schools ("CPS") selective enrollment high school. The purpose of this policy, which responds to a directive by a representative of the Court in the Corey H. matter, is to establish a uniform and equitable admissions process that administrators, parents and students can understand and use to ensure that students with disabilities have the opportunity to apply for and, if appropriate, gain admission into and enroll in the system's selective enrollment high schools in a manner that satisfies the Board's commitment to insuring that a natural proportion of students with disabilities attend these schools.

**I. The Application Process**

Pursuant to the Board's policy, "Facility Utilization and Establish Goal That Each Chicago Public and Charter School Enroll A Natural Proportion of Students With Disabilities," (Board Report 99-0526-PO1) all CPS officials and high school administrators who are involved in the admissions processes for the CPS selective enrollment high schools shall make a good faith effort to ensure that the enrollment of students with disabilities at each selective enrollment high school is within five percent of the CPS citywide high school enrollment rate.

**A. Eligibility for Admissions Consideration**

Students with disabilities who have a combination stanine score of ten or higher in reading and mathematics on a nationally-normed achievement test, such as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills ("ITBS"), will be eligible for consideration in the admissions process for CPS selective enrollment high schools.

**B. Notification of Eligibility for Admissions Consideration**

The Office of Academic Enhancement ("OAE"), in consultation with the Office of Specialized Services ("OSS"), will send letters to all parents or guardians of eighth grade students with disabilities enrolled in CPS schools who meet the eligibility standards set forth in Section I. A. above.

OAE also shall send to each selective enrollment high school a list of all eighth grade students with disabilities who meet the eligibility standards set forth in Section I. A. above so that the schools may contact the students on the list to encourage them to apply for selective enrollment high school admission. Each selective enrollment high school shall document its efforts to encourage students with disabilities to apply to the school by retaining copies of all letters sent to parents or guardians of these students in its admissions records.

**C. Admissions Testing**

Students with disabilities who have a combination stanine score of ten or higher in reading and mathematics seeking admission into a selective enrollment high school **must**

**take the admissions examination** as part of the application process. ***Any student with a disability who takes the admissions examination shall receive any and all accommodations required by his or her Individualized Education Program ("IEP").***

D. Applicant Information Used to Make Admissions Decisions

The following information regarding an applicant's performance shall be used in making admissions decisions regarding selective enrollment high schools and students with disabilities:

1. seventh grade nationally-normed standardized achievement test results in reading and mathematics;
2. results of the selective enrollment high school admissions examination;
3. final grades for seventh grade; and
4. seventh grade attendance record.

**II. Additional Admissions Procedures For Schools That Fail to Admit an Adequate Representation of Students With Disabilities**

If, following the admissions process described in Section I above, a selective enrollment high school does not meet the natural proportion benchmark set forth in Section I above, the school may be required to engage in further efforts to enroll students with disabilities that shall consist of the following:

A. Students with Low Incidence Disabilities

A selective enrollment high school may be designated as a site that provides services for students with low incidence disabilities, and such students may be admitted to that program through the IEP process, with approval of OSS.

B. Review of Qualified Students Who Have Not Been Selected for Admission

If a school does not meet the natural proportion benchmark after being designated as a site for low incidence students, school administrators may be required to meet with officials from the Office of the Chief Education Officer, OSS, OAE and the Law Department to review and admit students from the pool of remaining qualified students with disabilities. Specifically, a selective enrollment high school may be required to participate in this additional admissions process if:

1. The school does not meet the natural proportion benchmark **and** fails to demonstrate a steady increase in the enrollment of students with disabilities over the most recent three-year period.

or

2. The school has not made a good faith effort to enroll those students with disabilities whose application warranted acceptance and for whom the school was their first preference.
3. For purposes of this policy only, a "good faith effort" means:
  - a. the school sent an offer of acceptance to all students with disabilities who indicated that the school was their first preference for enrollment and who met the school's admissions standards; or

- b. the school sent an offer of acceptance to as many students with disabilities who indicated that the school was their first preference for enrollment and who met the school's admissions standards as would be needed to bring the school within five percent of the citywide high school enrollment rate if all the accepted students actually enrolled at the school; and
- c. the school sent an offer of acceptance to students with disabilities who met the school's admissions standards and who indicated that the school was their second, third or fourth preference only if the school needed to do so in order to bring the school within five percent of the citywide high school enrollment rate.

**LSC REVIEW:** LSC approval is not applicable to this report.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATUS:** None.

**FINANCIAL:** This policy has no financial implications for the Chicago Board of Education.

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:** None.

**Approved for Consideration:**



**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer

**Approved:**



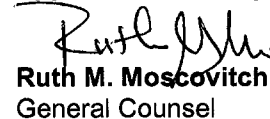
**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Noted:**



**John Maiorca**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:**

  
**Ruth M. Moscovitch**  
General Counsel