



## GoCPS for CPS Students Applying to Ninth Grade

GoCPS allows families to research and apply to schools/programs, schedule admissions screenings, and receive and accept offers, all on one site, with one application and one deadline. The application process for the 2021-2022 school year opens October 12, 2020, and closes December 11, 2020. Families can apply online or via paper application. To open an online account, families will visit [go.cps.edu](http://go.cps.edu) and click 'Sign Up. To receive a paper application, families will go to [go.cps.edu](http://go.cps.edu) and click 'High School' and 'Apply,' or contact the Office of Access and Enrollment at 773-553-2060 or [gocps@cps.edu](mailto:gocps@cps.edu).

### GoCPS MAILING LIST

- The first step in the application process is to subscribe to the GoCPS mailing list, at [go.cps.edu](http://go.cps.edu) under 'Contact Us.' Once the family signs up for the mailing list, they will receive updates and pertinent information throughout the application season.

### ACTIVATION

- All current CPS district and charter school students applying to ninth grade for the 2021-2022 school year will receive an Eligibility Data Letter before the application period opens via U.S. mail and via the student's CPS email address. The letter will contain the student's Activation Code, which is used to add the student to the account and access their academic data. If a family misplaces the Activation Code, they can contact their child's school counselor or call the Office of Access and Enrollment at 773-553-2060 from a telephone number on the student's Aspen Student Information file. (The student will not receive an Activation Code if they have already been added to an existing GoCPS account.)
- Once the account is open and the student is activated, families can see the programs to which students are eligible to apply, conduct research on the various programs available, and "favorite" those programs in which they may be interested.

### OPEN HOUSES

- Open Houses will be offered virtually for the 2021-2022 application process. Families can view these virtual Open Houses beginning in September to help them decide on the programs to which they want to apply. Information regarding virtual Open House events is accessible at [go.cps.edu](http://go.cps.edu), under 'Dates and Events,' or by calling the Office of Access and Enrollment at 773-553-2060.

### CHOICE PROGRAMS AND SELECTIVE ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS

- Programs are divided into two categories: (1) Selective Enrollment Programs and (2) Choice Programs.
- Selective Enrollment Programs are the 11 Selective Enrollment High Schools: Brooks, Hancock, Jones, Lane, Lindblom, King, Northside, Payton, South Shore, Westinghouse, and Whitney Young. All other schools/programs are Choice Programs.
- All Selective Enrollment Programs and some Choice Programs have minimum eligibility requirements in order for students to apply. Based on their eligibility, students can apply to up to 6 Selective Enrollment Programs and up to 20 Choice Programs.

### RANKING PROGRAMS ON THE APPLICATION

- The selection process is designed to offer the student the highest-ranked school/program on their application for which they are qualified and where there are available seats. It is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** for families to list the schools/programs on their application in the **ORDER OF THEIR CHOICE**. Families should list the program they want MOST as their first choice, the program they want next as their second choice, and so on. **This is the order in which the student will be considered.**

### SELECTION PROCESS

- Students are considered for each program in the selection process by one of two methods: (1) a points-based system or (2) a computerized lottery.
- Points are generally based on the student's NWEA MAP scores, grades from 7th grade, and/or admissions screening results. Lottery numbers are randomly assigned by computer.

### NWEA MAP SCORES

- For schools/programs that use NWEA MAP scores for eligibility/selections, CPS typically uses spring NWEA MAP scores from students' seventh grade year. Since this exam was not administered in spring 2020, CPS will look at scores from NWEA MAP tests that were administered during the following test windows: spring 2019 (2018-2019 school year), fall 2019 (2019-2020 school year), and winter 2019 (2019-2020 school year).

- If a student has NWEA MAP scores from a test administered in spring, fall, or winter 2019, CPS will use the highest of the math and reading scores from these exams for the eligibility process and this student will not take the NWEA MAP in fall 2020 for the purposes of the 2021-2022 application process. If the student meets minimum eligibility requirements, they can take the NWEA MAP in winter 2020, and the highest reading score and the highest math score from all of the exams will be used for the selection process.
- If a student does NOT have NWEA MAP scores from spring, fall or winter 2019, the student will take the NWEA MAP in October 2020. These scores will be used for the eligibility process. If the student meets minimum eligibility requirements, they can take the NWEA MAP again in winter 2020, and the highest reading score and the highest math score from the fall and winter exams will be used for the selection process. If the student missed the registration process for the fall 2020 NWEA MAP, they will need contact the Office of Access and Enrollment at 773-553-2060 or [gocps@cps.edu](mailto:gocps@cps.edu) for next steps.

#### **GRADES AND ATTENDANCE**

- **Grades:** For schools and programs that use grades for eligibility and/or selections, CPS will use students' final (cumulative) grades for the entire seventh grade year, **or** the average of their first and second quarter grades -- whichever is higher.
- **Attendance:** Because attendance was not tracked during the remote learning session in the spring, attendance will not be used for eligibility or selections for any programs.

#### **SINGLE-OFFER MODEL**

- The application process for high schools is a single-offer model. This means that AT MOST, students can receive an offer from only ONE Selective Enrollment Program and only ONE Choice Program.
- It is possible for a student to receive an offer from only one Selective Enrollment **OR** only one Choice Program – or no offers from either. As a result, it is important for families to apply to as many programs as the student would consider attending.
- If the student currently attends eighth grade in a CPS school that also serves grades 9-12 (known as a 'Continuing School'), the student will also receive an offer to this school.
- Students are guaranteed a seat in the general education program at the designated neighborhood school for their home address. Note that if a student accepts an offer from their neighborhood school, they must provide proof of residency at the attendance area address when they enroll. If the student moves out of the attendance boundary before they enroll, they will forfeit the seat.

#### **ADMISSION SCREENINGS**

- Some programs have additional requirements – admissions exams, auditions, essays, information sessions, interviews, or teacher recommendations – that the student has to fulfill in order to be considered. These are called “admission screenings.”
- For the 2021-2022 school year, admissions screenings will be offered remotely, with the exception of the in-person Selective Enrollment admissions exam.
- Online applicants can use the online site to schedule appointments for admission screenings. Paper applicants will, in most cases, be contacted by the school to schedule appointments for admissions screenings. There are two exceptions: applicants will have to contact schools with programs requiring essays or teacher recommendations, and exams for Selective Enrollment High Schools are scheduled by the Office of Access and Enrollment, which will then inform the family of the exam’s date, time and location.

#### **FIRST-ROUND APPLICATION RESULTS**

- Application results will be released in spring 2020. Results for online applicants will be posted to the online accounts. Results for paper applicants will be mailed to the primary address on the application, as well as posted to an online account that will be opened on the family’s behalf. Families will have approximately two weeks to accept or decline offers. Online applicants can accept or decline offers online. Paper applicants can accept/decline offers via the online account that was opened for them, or by calling the Office of Access and Enrollment at 773-553-2060 from a phone number on their GoCPS account.

#### **WAITLISTS**

- Students will be waitlisted for any programs that they ranked higher than the program where they received an offer (as long as they are eligible for selection). After the deadline for accepting/declining offers, schools will fill any remaining seats by contacting waitlisted students, in order of their waitlist numbers.
- If a student accepts a first-round offer, and later receives an offer from a school/program for which they were waitlisted, the student can accept the offer from the school/program where they were waitlisted and decline the initial offer.

#### **SECOND ROUND**

- A second application round will take place later in the school year, for programs that still have seats available. If a student receives a second-round offer, they will automatically forfeit the first-round offer they accepted.

#### **TRANSFER PROCESS**

- If families are still interested in exploring school options after the second application round, students can transfer to any program that still has seats available and for which they are eligible. Transfers can only take place between July 1st and the 20th day of school, or at the end of a school quarter. Interested families can visit GoCPS starting July 1st for information.

**For more information on the GoCPS process, including guides, videos, and FAQs, visit [go.cps.edu](http://go.cps.edu).**

**Office of Access and Enrollment ● (773) 553-2060 ● [gocps@cps.edu](mailto:gocps@cps.edu)**