

Posted on 2022-06-09 11:10:49 AM (CDT) by Kat Hindmand

"Selective Enrollment High Schools are designed to meet the needs of the city's most academically advanced high school students".

In the name of diversity and equity, a good-sized group of black and brown students with IEPs who are not academically advanced were accepted/admitted into Selective Enrollment High Schools by Central Office. Seems like a good idea in theory. In reality, we are doing these students a huge disservice because they are struggling like they have never before. At Walter Payton College Prep, for instance, we only offer Honors and AP classes. We now have students who are reading or doing math at a 3rd grade level in classes with students doing college-level work and teachers can only differentiate so much. As a result, the struggling students are acting out by being disruptive, fighting, etc. and avoiding classes so they don't have to be in places where they feel like they are the "dumbest person" in the room.

I'm not naive to the fact that Selective Enrollment High Schools are in place partially to prevent academically advanced students from going to private schools or moving out of the City. However, if CPS is truly invested in DEI, selective enrollment schools should not exist.

Posted on 2022-06-12 01:24:47 PM (CDT) by S.R.B.

Test Optional Admissions standards for a percentage of Magnet & Selective Enrollment Seats to ensure equitable access. Highly selective colleges and universities have implemented this admissions strategy . Please research and consider piloting

Posted on 2022-06-17 10:57:54 AM (CDT) by

I've lived across the street from Lenart Elementary Regional Gifted Center for 9 years. I'm writing to you out of concern, I'm seeking clarification and some assistance. I applied to Lenart for my 4-year-old on April 19, 2022, via the Chicago Early Learning application. When the results of the application were made available, I found out that she was placed on the waiting list. I also applied to Lenart for her when she was 3, and she was not selected then either. I have an 8-year-old son whom I've applied to Lenart for year after year starting at the age of 3 and he was never chosen to attend Lenart.

I understand that Lenart is a selective enrollment school and that certain scores are required to be offered a seat for grades K-8. I don't understand why my 4-year-old wasn't offered a seat when she doesn't have to test in for Pre-K and we live across the street. My concern is that I live across the street from the school, I pay taxes for the school, and my children were never seriously considered for this school. I have many neighbors with the same concerns. It's frustrating to watch children from other neighborhoods come into my neighborhood and attend a school that my children don't have access to, while I must drive miles away from my home to another school for my child(ren) to receive a good education.

I've spoken with the Assistant Principle from Lenart, I've spoken with a supervisor from the Chicago Early Learning program, and I've spoken with a representative from the office of Access and Enrollment. Everyone is telling me that they are not responsible for the pre-k student selection, but no one is telling me who is responsible for the pre-k student selection. I'm not asking that any special accommodations are made for my child, but I am asking that someone or everyone reviews the pre-k student selection process at Lenart Elementary Regional Gifted Center and ensure that neighborhood students are being selected regardless of the point system or the lottery system that is currently in place. Computers and electronic selections cannot do the work of humans. Proximity to school matters and should earn points for a student. I understand that I can add other schools to my child's application, but why should I have to? There is a perfectly good school across the street from my home and my child qualifies for it.

My home is 0.1 miles away from Lenart Elementary Regional Gifted Center. Lenart is closer to me than my neighborhood school Westcott which has a provisional support rating on the CPS school profile page.
