



Dear 8th grade Family,

We are reaching out to provide information regarding the CPS High School Admissions Test (HSAT) and its role in the 2025-26 school year (SY26) GoCPS application process.

For SY26 GoCPS applications, our District will continue to use one exam, the HSAT, to help determine admission into choice and selective enrollment programs that require academic criteria. Qualifying CPS eighth grade district and charter school students will take this test during the school day at their school of enrollment. Using one exam and giving all students the opportunity to take the test at school expands access for students interested in choice and selective programs.

The HSAT is a one hour exam, with a 30-minute section in reading and a 30-minute section in math. The test will be offered in 6 languages: English, Arabic, Polish, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, and Urdu. Students will take the entire test -- both the reading and math sections -- in the same language. There is not an opportunity to test in both English and a student's home language.

Note: Families must provide written permission in order for students to take the HSAT in a language other than English. Please request this consent form, if needed, and return it to school by **Tuesday, October 1st**.

Students testing in English will take the HSAT at school on **Wednesday, October 9, 2024**. There will be a make-up opportunity on **Tuesday, October 22, 2024** for students who are absent on October 9. Students testing in Arabic, Polish, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, and Urdu will test at school on Wednesday, **October 16, 2024**, and there will be a makeup opportunity on **Wednesday, October 23, 2024** for those who are absent on October 16.

Unless students qualify for specific accommodations, the test will be administered online and will consist of the following two sections:

Test	Description	Time	# Items
Reading	Most questions focus on inferring and generalizing information in passages. Includes both informational and literary texts.	30 minutes	23 items
Math	Questions emphasize the ability to solve quantitative problems.	30 minutes	36 - 39 items
Total		1 hour	59 - 62 items



Since this test is used for student admissions into selective enrollment and choice programs, it's important that students do their best. Although children cannot study for a standardized assessment like they would for a regular classroom test, there are ways you can help your child prepare:

- Talk to your child about testing so that they understand why **doing their best** is important
- Make sure your child gets a **good night's sleep** the night before the exam
- Make sure your child **eats something** for breakfast (protein bar, oatmeal, breakfast sandwich, etc)
- Ensure your child arrives to school **on time** on the day of the exam
- Help your child maintain a **positive mindset** by reminding them of their strengths and accomplishments

The GoCPS application process for the 2025-26 school year will open on September 24. Visit go.cps.edu to explore available programs, gather information on the application process and timeline, and find details on how to access HSAT scores.

We thank you for your continued partnership and urge you to contact your school or the CPS Office of Access and Enrollment (gocps@cps.edu) about the HSAT or the GoCPS application process.

Sincerely,

[Tara Shelton]