



### **Understanding the GoCPS Socioeconomic Tiers**

On August 24, 2011, the Chicago Board of Education approved the Admissions Policy for Magnet, Selective Enrollment and Other Options for Knowledge Schools and Programs. This policy is designed to ensure equal access and equity in the provision of magnet and selective enrollment schools and programs offered by the District. The following provides information regarding the impact of the policy on the selections process.

#### **How Tiers are Created**

Every Chicago address falls within a specific census tract. We look at five socio-economic characteristics for each census tract: (1) median family income, (2) percentage of single-parent households, (3) percentage of households where English is not the first language, (4) percentage of homes occupied by the homeowner, and (5) level of adult education attainment. We also look at a sixth characteristic, the achievement scores from nearby elementary schools for the students who live in each census tract.

Based on the results of each of these six areas, every census tract is given a specific score. These scores are ranked and divided into four groups – or 'tiers' – each consisting of approximately the same number of school-age children. This is how we establish the four tiers. Consequently, every Chicago address falls into one of the four tiers, based on the characteristics mentioned above.

How Tiers are used for Selections

#### ***Magnet Schools***

For the entry grade, typically kindergarten or 9th, and after allocating seats for priority groups and proximity (where applicable) the remaining seats are divided across the four socio-economic tiers and the seats are filled by computerized lottery.

#### ***Selective Enrollment Schools***

For the entry grade level for selective enrollment elementary and high school programs, the first 30% of available seats are filled strictly according to the student scores--also referred to as the “rank” score. The remaining seats are equally distributed among the four tiers and are filled by the highest-scoring students in each tier.

#### ***How to Find Your Current Tier***

1. Go to [cps.edu/gocps](https://cps.edu/gocps) and click on 'School Search.'
2. Type in your address in the box at the top of the page.
3. A box will appear that shows you the tier for your address.