

Guide to the HSAT

This document contains information about admissions testing for Non-CPS students applying to 9th-grade programs. **The CPS High School Admissions Test (HSAT) is the PreACT 9 Secure**, an achievement skills test that assesses students in four subject areas: English, Math, Reading and Science. The HSAT will be administered in the fall of each school year.

Note: All current CPS and Charter students should be testing at their current 8th grade school.

Test Details

Test Duration - Total Time: 2 hours and 35 minutes

- **English:** 35 minutes | 44 questions
- **Math:** 45 minutes | 34 questions
- **Reading:** 40 minutes | 33 questions
- **Science:** 35 minutes | 32 questions

For more information on the exam, [please see the HSAT page on the GoCPS website](#).

- Students are encouraged to bring a pen/pencil. Scratch paper will be provided if required.
- All students will have access to the Desmos calculator that is built into the PreACT 9 Secure testing platform for the Math section. Calculators for students who have approved district testing accommodations (per IEP or 504 plan) will be distributed at the beginning of testing for eligible students.
- If a student begins to feel sick during the test, they must tell a staff member.
- Prohibited materials include all personal electronic equipment not related to testing. Examinees may not use cell phones, smart watches, smart glasses, fitness bands, media players, or any other electronic devices at any time (including during the break). All devices must be powered off and stored out of sight.
- No food can be brought into the testing space. Students can bring a water bottle.
- Students who engage in disruptive behavior at the testing site and/or who do not cooperate with the examiner may not be permitted to complete testing. Students who do not abide by the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) will be disqualified from testing.

How to Register

Fall testing will ONLY occur in October of 2026. PreACT 9 Secure has designated windows for testing, and CPS is not able to offer any testing outside of the designated window. Therefore, **students MUST sign up, through the GoCPS application, for testing in October.** The deadline

to sign up for testing will be 10 business days prior to the designated test date. [Click here to log into the GoCPS Portal.](#)

We will be opening the GoCPS application on Wednesday, September 9. We are doing this earlier than in years past to support our private school and non-CPS families in registering for testing. We will also have a spring testing window for students who missed the fall opportunity and want to participate in rolling waitlists. However, seats for some programs are very limited during the rolling waitlist period.

GoCPS Admissions Timeline for the 2027-28 SY	
GoCPS Application / HSAT Registration Opens	Wednesday, September 9, 2026 (10 am)
Non-CPS HSAT Weekend Testing Dates	Saturday, October 17, 2026 Sunday, October 18, 2026 Saturday, October 24, 2026 Sunday, October 25, 2026
GoCPS Application Closes	Friday, November 13, 2026 (5 pm)
Initial High School GoCPS Offers Released	Friday, February 12, 2027
Initial Elementary School GoCPS Offers Released	Friday, March 12, 2027

How to prepare for the HSAT?

While the district does not sponsor or recommend specific commercial test preparation, with the HSAT changing to the PreACT 9 Secure, a widely used test, families have much greater clarity and a clearer understanding of what to expect on test day compared to prior years. Free preparation resources are available on the [Preparing for PreACT 9 Secure ACT website](#).

Where to Go

All testing for the CPS HSAT takes place at a designated CPS location.

Lane Tech High School	Lindblom High School
Address: 2501 W. Addison St. Chicago, IL 60618 Parking: Lot located on the SE corner of building Entry: Door M (Main Door)	Address: 6130 S. Wolcott Ave. Chicago, IL 60618 Parking: Street Parking Available. Lot parking at 63rd and Winchester Entry: Door 3 (on Wolcott)

Arrival Procedures

- Arrive 30 minutes prior to the testing time.
- Students checking in less than 15 minutes before the scheduled start time may not be allowed to attend.
- A printed entrance ticket will be provided at the testing site.

Health and Safety

Students experiencing any sickness symptoms should not come to the test center and **should follow the rescheduling procedures.**

Rescheduling

Please email or call the Testing Team (gocpstestingteam@cps.edu) as soon as you know you will not be able to attend testing to be rescheduled.

Accommodations

- In order for allowable testing accommodations to be provided, a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan must be current and within one year of the test date.
- Families should contact the Private School Evaluation Team (privateschoolevals@cps.edu) before the application period opens to ensure their child's plan is up to date. Due to the limited flexibility within the testing schedule, we strongly encourage families to address any needed updates as early as possible so that accommodations can be reviewed and considered prior to testing.
- For questions regarding testing accommodations, contact the Testing Team at gocpstestingteam@cps.edu.