

TJ ADMISSIONS MERIT LOTTERY
PROPOSAL
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
9/15/2020



Agenda



Background

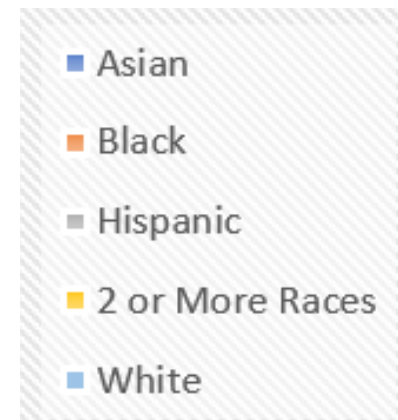
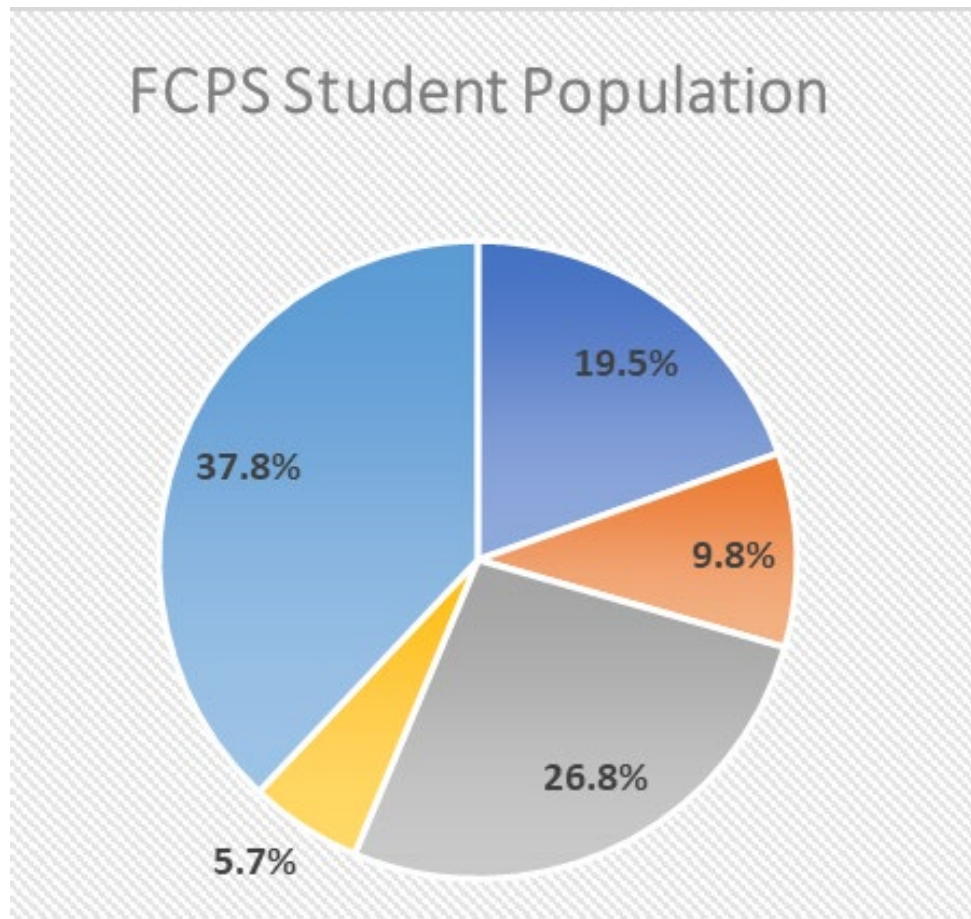
- Current Application Process
- Previous Changes
- Results

Merit Lottery Proposal

- Overview
- Model

Leading with Equity at the Center

- TJHSST should reflect the diversity of FCPS, the community and Northern Virginia
- The talent at TJHSST does not reflect the talent in FCPS
- We recognize a comprehensive approach is needed to enhance diversity and inclusion at TJHSST
- The goal aligns with the One Fairfax initiative
- Three-pronged approach
 - **Admissions – Merit Lottery**
 - Enhanced pipeline
 - Enhanced wrap-around support for TJHSST students

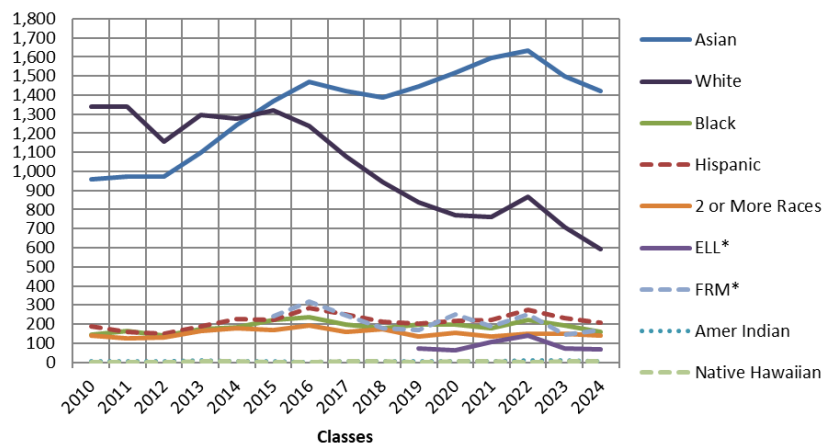


Economically Disadvantaged: 29.3%
English Language Learners: 27.4%

Historical Admissions Data

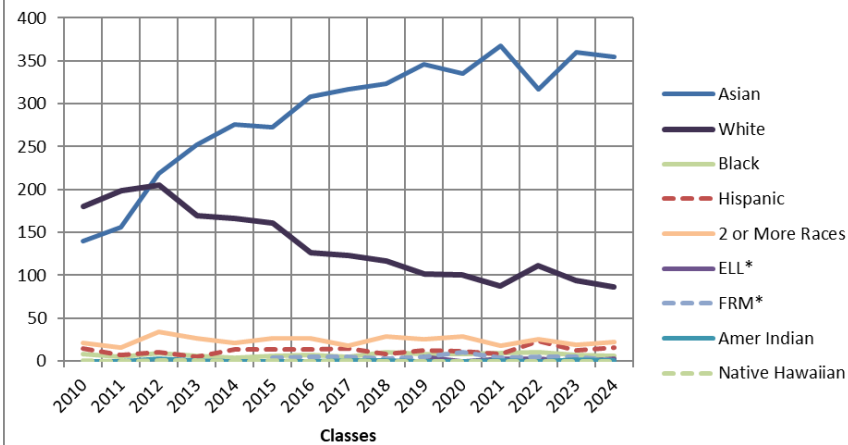
School Board
Work Session
9/15/2020

Applicants



*FCPS students only

Offers



*FCPS students only

2011 (Class of 2016) – Outreach Specialist Position Created

2013 (Class of 2018) – Holistic Review

- Student Information Sheet proctored

2014 (Class of 2019) – Sliding Scale Adjusted

- Minimum semifinalist requirements lowered

2015 (Class of 2020) – Problem Solving Essay Added

2016 (Class of 2021) – Outreach Specialist Reduced to 0.5 Position

2017 (Class of 2022) – New Tests Introduced

- Quant-Q and ACT Aspire Reading & Science

These changes have not made a significant impact on the application pool or admitted student demographics

Current Admissions Process

Application

- Application Fee (\$100)
- Core GPA 3.0
- Algebra I
- 8th grade/residency

Semifinalist Considerations

- Percentile Ranks
 - Quant-Q
 - ACT Aspire Reading
 - ACT Aspire Science
- Maintain Core GPA 3.0

Holistic Review

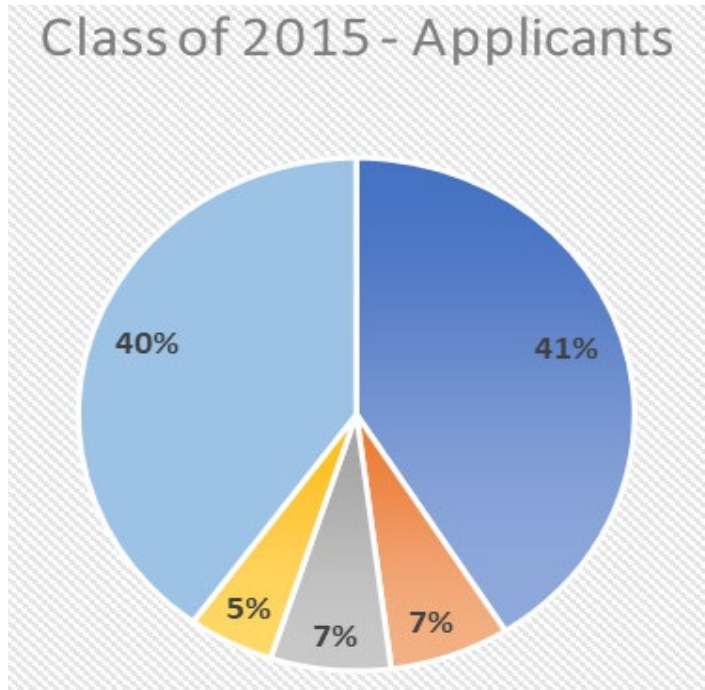
- Teacher Recommendations
- Student Information Sheet
- Problem Solving Essay
- Percentile Ranks
- Math & Science GPA

Offers

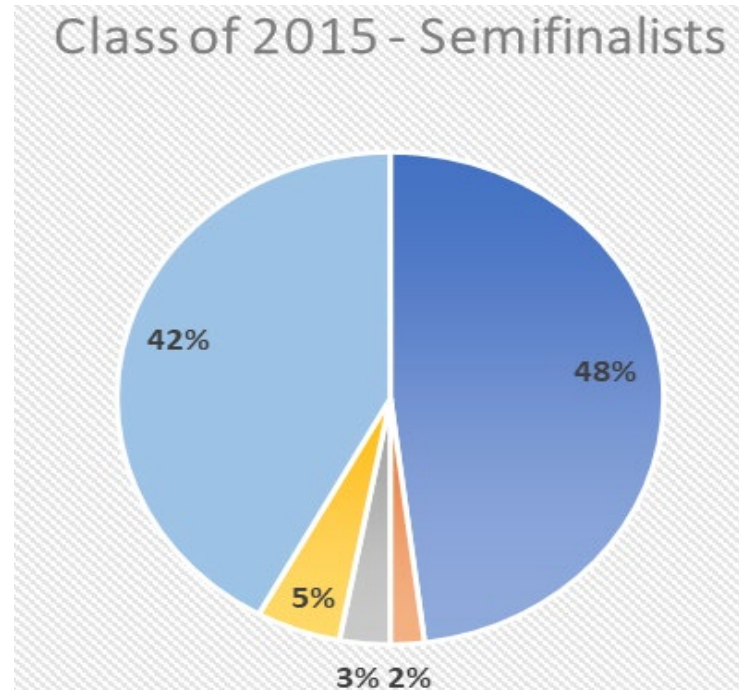
- Top 480-500 students receive offers

Impact of Testing – Class of 2015

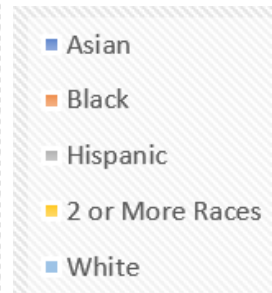
- Admissions Testing has been a barrier for historically underrepresented students to move to the semifinalist stage.



English Language Learners – 8.2%
Economically Disadvantaged – 7.3%

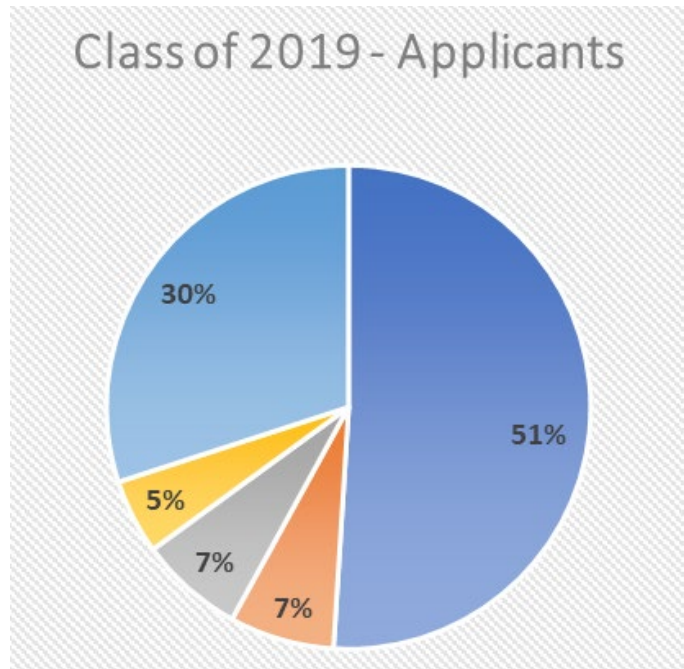


English Language Learners – 4.1%
Economically Disadvantaged – 1.6%

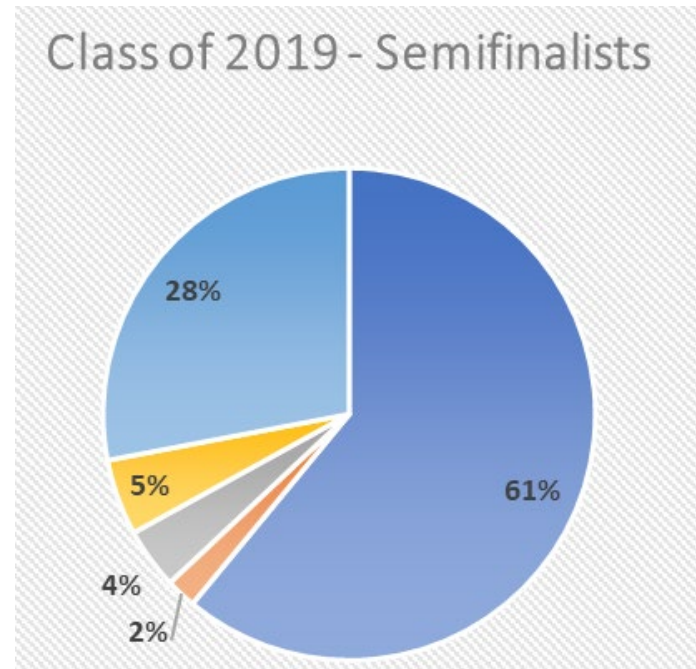


Impact of Testing – Class of 2019

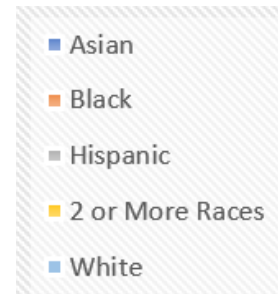
- Admissions Testing has been a barrier for historically underrepresented students to move to the semifinalist stage.



English Language Learners – 2.6%
Economically Disadvantaged – 6.0%

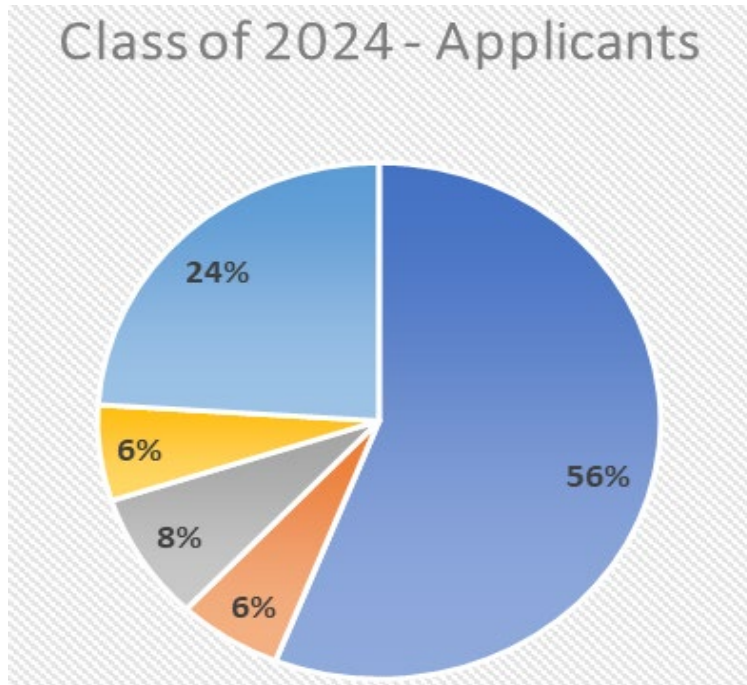


English Language Learners – 1.1%
Economically Disadvantaged – 2.1%

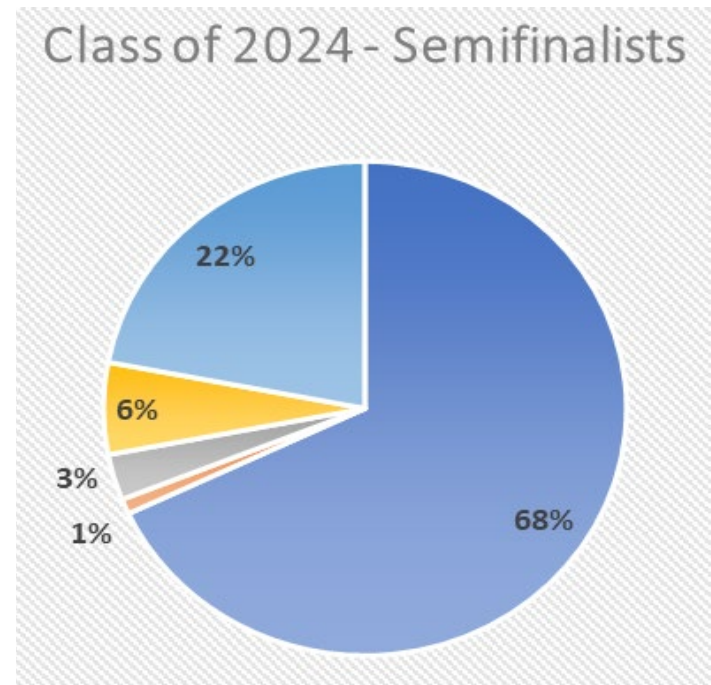


Impact of Testing – Class of 2024

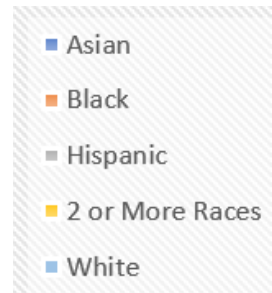
- Admissions Testing has been a barrier for historically underrepresented students to move to the semifinalist stage.



English Language Learners – 2.7%
Economically Disadvantaged – 7.2%

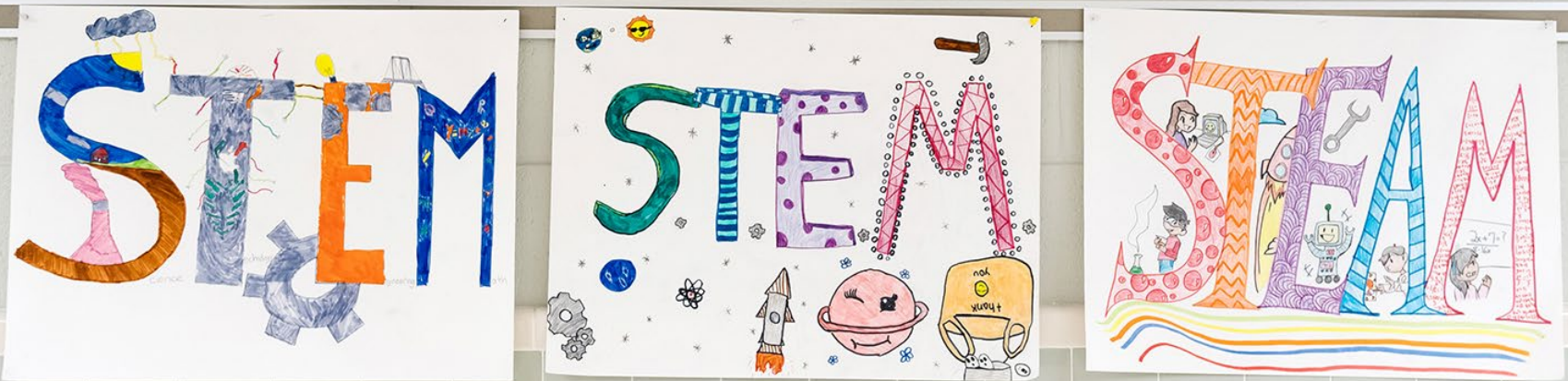


English Language Learners – 0.6%
Economically Disadvantaged – 1.4%



Merit Lottery Proposal

Expanding Our Talent Search



Current Process

- Application Requirements
 - Core class 3.0 GPA
 - Enrolled in Algebra I
 - Residency Requirements
 - Application Fee
 - Assessment Percentile Ranking
 - Quant-Q
 - ACT Aspire Reading & Science
- Holistic Review
 - Student Information Sheet
 - GPA
 - Teacher Recommendations
 - Problem-solving Essay
 - Assessment Percentile Ranking

Proposed Process


- Application Requirements
 - **Core Class 3.5 GPA**
 - Enrolled in Algebra I
 - Residency Requirements
 - Revised Student Information Sheet to include questionnaire/essay
- Selection by Merit Lottery

Removes:

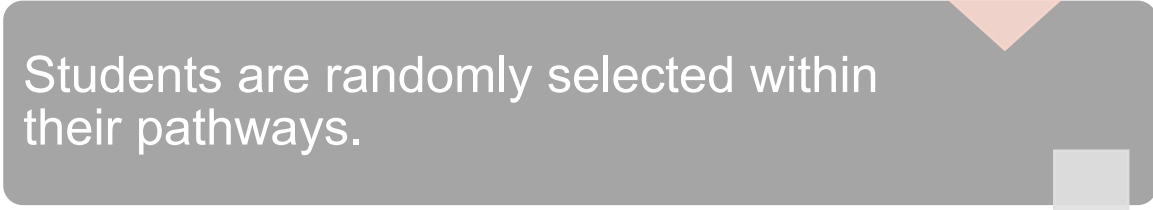
- Application Fee
- Assessment Percentile Ranking
- Teacher Recommendations
- Problem-solving Essay

Merit Lottery Process

Students are placed into lottery pathways after a holistic review.



Students are randomly selected within their pathways.



Offer letters are sent.



Students have a designated timeframe to accept or reject their offer.

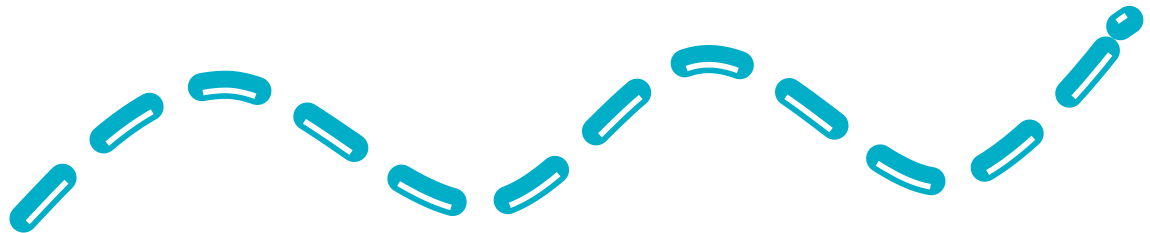


Rolling admissions are established to keep a class of 500.

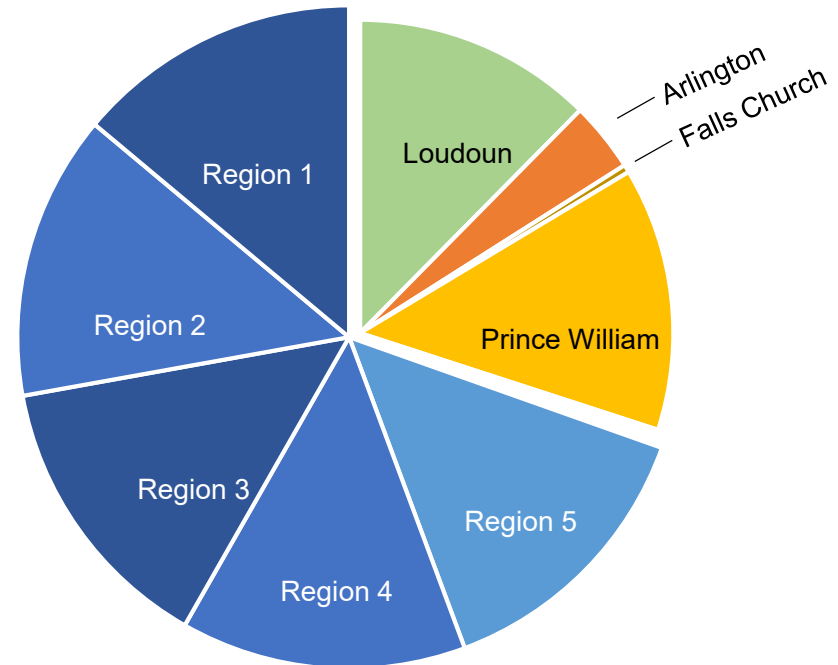


Pathways

- Pathways have been designed to ensure equitable access for students across all regions in FCPS and participating jurisdictions
 - Arlington County
 - Fairfax County
 - Falls Church City
 - Loudoun County
 - Prince William County
- Qualified students will be selected by a merit lottery within each pathway



- FCPS: 350 seats (70 per region)
- Loudoun: 62 seats
- Arlington: 18 seats
- Falls Church: 2 seats
- Prince William: 68 seats
- Private school applicants will be assigned a pathway based on residency



The numbers represented are based on the allowed ratio student cap for the 2019-2020 freshman application

Region 1

Carson
Cooper
Herndon
Hughes
Thoreau

Region 2

Glasgow
Holmes
Jackson
Kilmer
Longfellow
Poe

Region 3

Hayfield
Key
Sandburg
Twain
Whitman

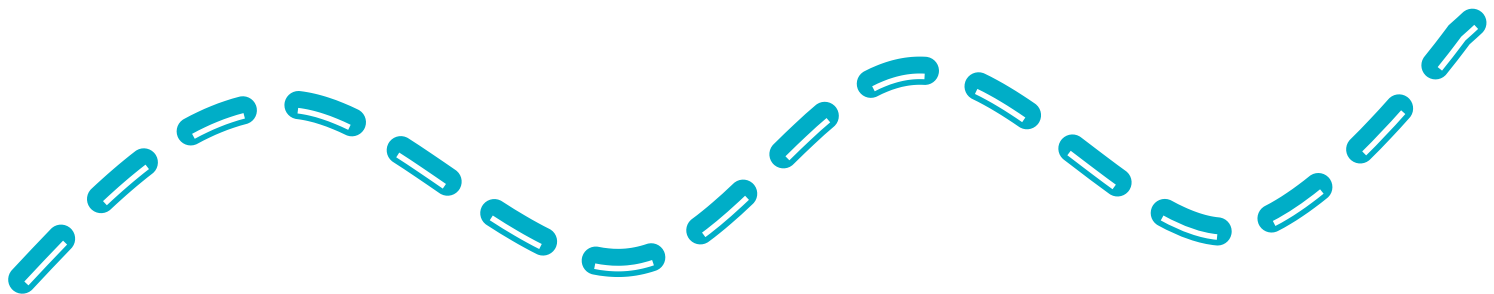
Region 4

Irving
Lake Braddock
Liberty
Robinson
South County

Region 5

Franklin
Frost
Lanier
Rocky Run
Stone

Applicants will be placed in Region based on the students' base school



Rolling Admissions Process

Each pathway will maintain a list of students not chosen in the initial merit lottery. Students will be placed on the list in the order their names were drawn.

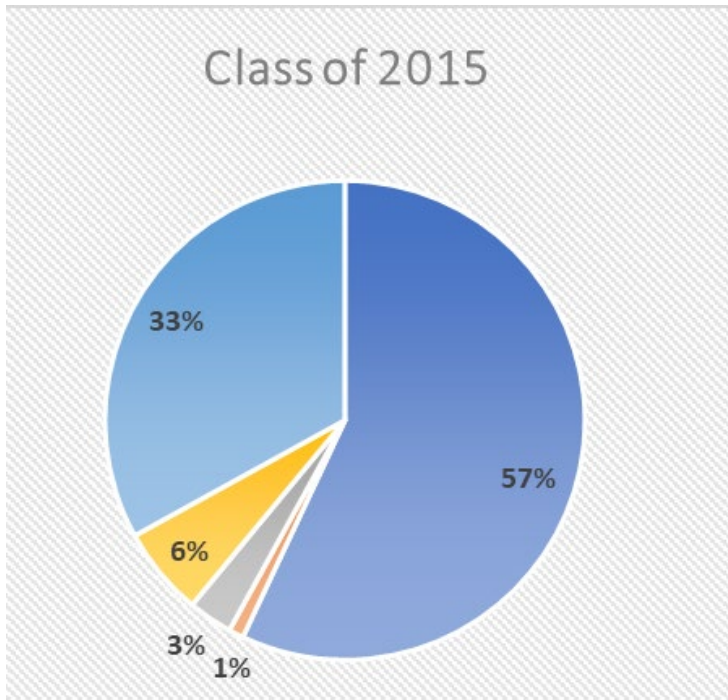
Openings in each pathway will be filled with the first name on the list for that pathway.

Should a non-FCPS pathway exhaust its list of students, the next eligible candidate off the FCPS list will be chosen.

As needed, additional applicants will be offered on the 1st and 15th of every month through end of 1st Quarter in order to maintain a class of 500.

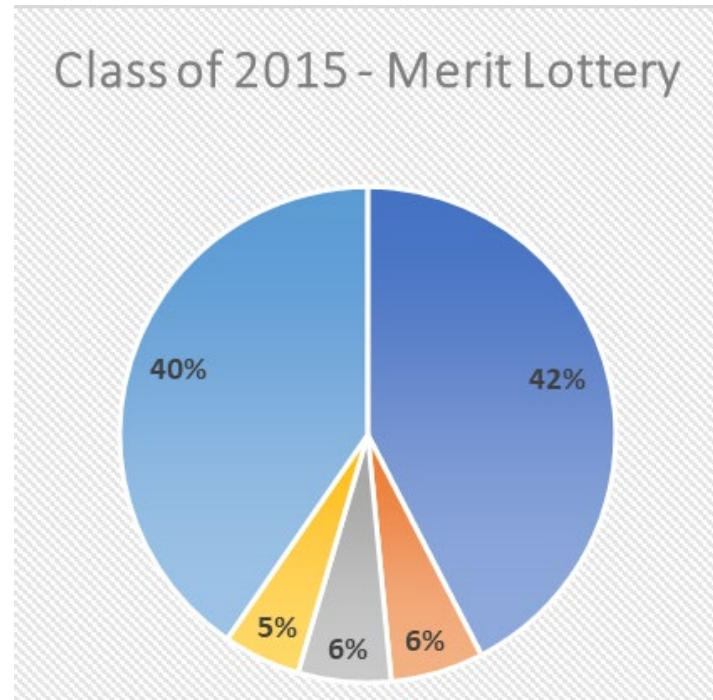
Any student who declines the offer of admission will be removed from eligibility.

Percent of Offered Students Using Current Holistic Process

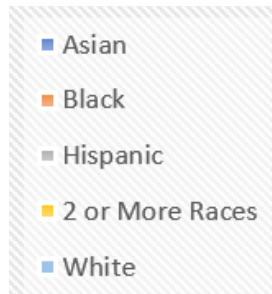


Economically Disadvantaged: 2.9%
English Language Learners: 0.8%

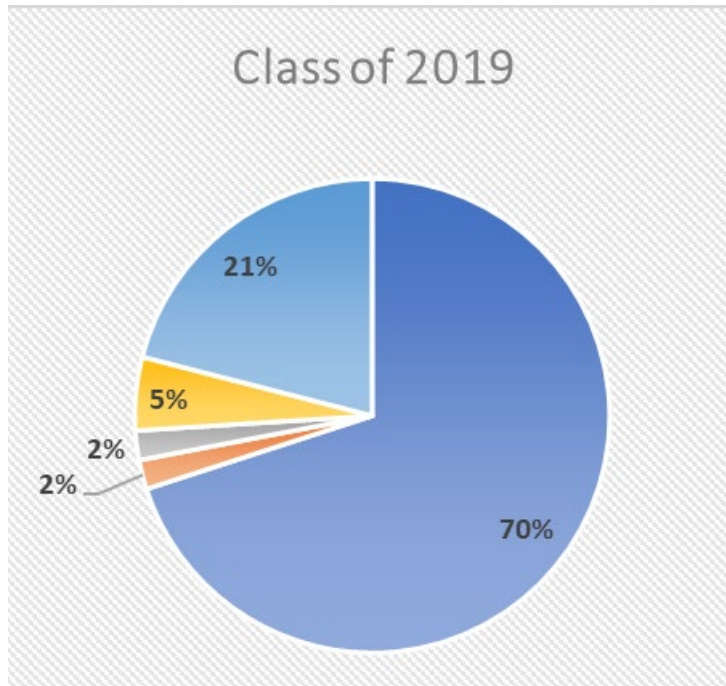
Percent of Offered Students Using Merit Lottery



Economically Disadvantaged: 7.0%
English Language Learners: 8.9%

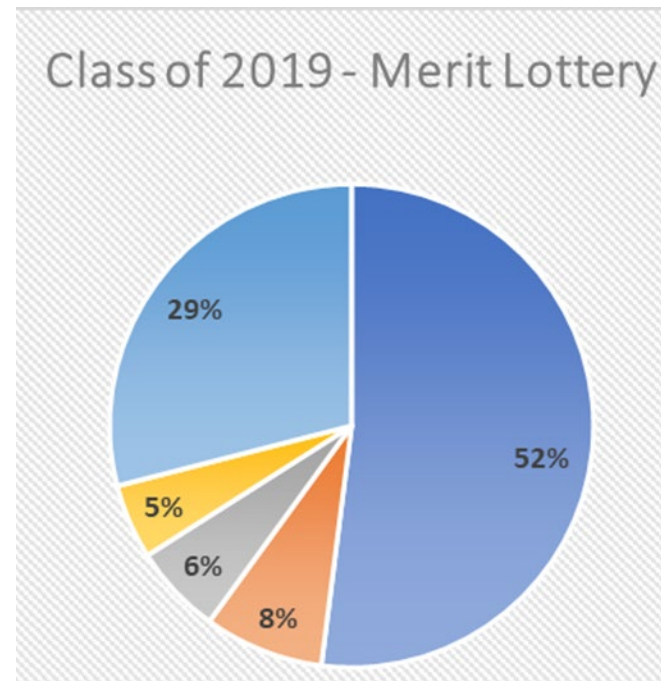


Percent of Offered Students Using Current Holistic Process

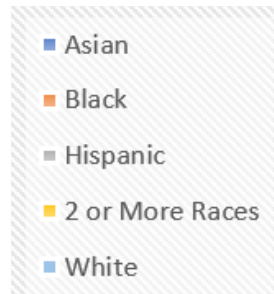


Economically Disadvantaged: 1.2%
English Language Learners: 1.0%

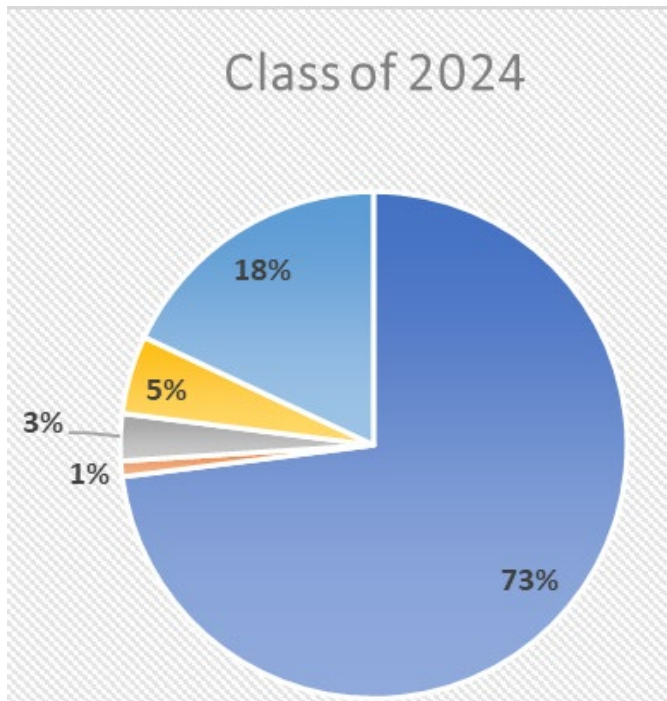
Percent of Offered Students Using Merit Lottery



Economically Disadvantaged: 8.8%
English Language Learners: 2.3%

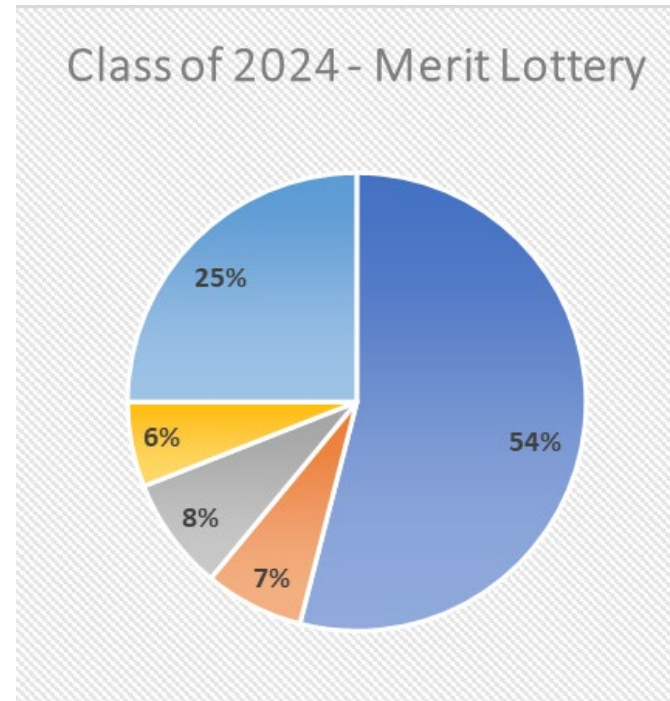


Percent of Offered Students Using Current Holistic Process

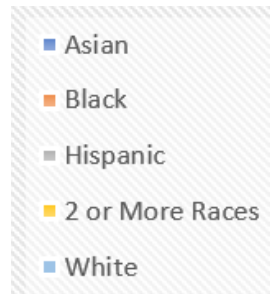


Economically Disadvantaged: 0.6%
English Language Learners: 0.6%

Percent of Offered Students Using Merit Lottery



Economically Disadvantaged: 10.3%
English Language Learners: 3.4%



Critical Decision Timeline: Current Process

- Application
 - Fall
- Ordering of Testing Materials
 - Beginning of October (paper or online)
- Testing
 - Late Fall
- Semifinalist Release
 - Mid –January
- Final Offers
 - April

Critical Decision Timeline: Revised Process

Board and Community Input

- Community Outreach/Town Halls
 - Late September/early October
- Final Proposal
 - October 8 School Board meeting

If Recommended

- Targeted Outreach
- Revisions to Regulation 3355
 - Late fall
- Development of Revised Process
 - Fall/winter
- Application
 - December/January
- Implement Merit Lottery
 - February/March



Present to students in every public school (FCPS and participating jurisdictions)

Present to parents and the community in evening sessions



Send recruitment emails/letters to all eligible students

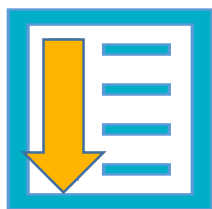


Conduct a virtual open house to include a tour, student speakers, teachers presenting their programs, and an overview of student supports



Conduct targeted recruitment of underrepresented students

Additional Work



- Enhancing the admissions process is one step in a multi-pronged strategy
- Enhancing and expanding the pipeline by ensuring equitable access to rigorous STEM instruction at the elementary and middle school level
- Ensuring a Caring Culture for all TJHSST students
 - Transition resources for students
 - Professional development for staff
 - Supporting unique needs of all learners
 - Wrap-around support for students

Appendix

Links to other schools using a Lottery System. Many of these schools are highly rated (US News Report) and use a similar variety of the lottery model to select students.

<http://www.enrollbasis.com/enrollment/enrollment-faqs/> (Basis – Arizona)

<https://www.gcpsk12.org/domain/6040> (Gwinnett)

<https://ics.lwsd.org/about-us/application-process> (International Community School - Washington)

http://www.mps.k12.al.us/for_parents/magnet_schools (Loveless/Montgomery Schools)

<https://rahs.highlineschools.org/admissions/lottery-process> (Raisbeck)

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/national-rankings/stem>

