

ACT: The ACT (American College Testing) test is a standardized test produced by ACT, Inc. measuring high school achievement and used for college admissions in the United States. The ACT consists of four tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning. The tests are scored individually on a scale of 1–36. Additionally, a Composite score is provided, which equals the whole number average of the four test scores.

African-American: Students having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

Average Daily Attendance: the average percentage of enrolled students in attendance on a given school day during the school year.

Charter: Charter schools are publicly funded, open enrollment, tuition-free schools that are free from the rules and requirements of state and local education agencies. In exchange for this flexibility, charter schools have increased accountability.

College enrollment rate: The percent of graduates who enrolled in college by November 1st of that same year (the standard timeframe used to calculate college enrollment statistics). Schools are included if they had more than 10 graduates for a given year.

CPS: Abbreviation for Chicago Public Schools.

ELL: English Language Learner (ELL) students range from those who do not speak or understand any English, to those with limited English abilities. ELL students are identified by testing of their English language verbal comprehension, speaking, reading and writing skills.

EPAS: ACT Inc.'s EPAS® (Educational Planning and Assessment System) is a linked series of three tests – EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT – designed to measure a student’s educational progress and college readiness as he/she progresses through high school. EXPLORE may be administered to 8th graders each spring and to high school freshmen each autumn. PLAN is administered to sophomores every spring, and the ACT is administered to juniors every spring as part of the PSAE (Prairie State Achievement Examination). Each test contains an English, Reading, Mathematics and Science section. Students receive a score for each of these sections, in addition to an overall “composite” score, which is a mean of all the subject scores.

Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL): Applies to students whose household income relative to household size qualifies them, under federal mandate, to receive free or reduced lunch while attending school.

Graduates: All students who graduate or complete an individualized education program (IEP) or alternative program within five years of starting their freshman year. Excludes dropouts (defined below), students who were still actively enrolled in high school in the sixth year after their freshman year, and both verified and unverified transfers.

Hispanic: Students who identify themselves as being of Spanish-speaking background and trace their origin or descent to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central and/or South America and/or other Spanish-speaking countries.

ISAT: The Illinois Standard Achievement Test (ISAT) is an annual assessment administered in the spring of each school year. It is composed of four tests (Reading, Mathematics, Science and Writing) which measure individual student achievement relative to the Illinois Learning Standards. Students in grades three through eight take the reading and mathematics subtests. The science subtest is only administered to students in grades four and seven. The writing subtest was previously administered to students in grades three, five, six and eight but was suspended in 2011.

Network-affiliated charter school campus: Those schools affiliated with another campus through a local or national network of charters schools.

NWEA: The Northwest Evaluation Association Measure of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) is CPS's primary assessment measure for students in grades 2nd through 8th. The NWEA MAP is administered in the spring of each school year district-wide, and optionally in schools in the middle of the school year. The results are used at the classroom level to track students' progress toward learning goals and to tailor instruction to individual students.

NWEA National Student Attainment Percentile: Average spring scale scores of students on the NWEA MAP, compared to the national average scores. The school is assigned a percentile representing where the school would fall on the national distribution. The national average is the 50th percentile.

NWEA National Student Growth Percentile: Average growth of the school compared to national average growth for schools with the same average pretest score. The school is assigned a percentile representing where it would fall on the national distribution. The national average is the 50th percentile.

Other (racial category): Students in the ethnic / racial categories of American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Multi-racial, or students for whom race information was not available or who have been identified as “Other” by a parent or guardian.

Other Non-Selective Schools: Schools within Chicago Public Schools that must admit any student who lives in their attendance boundary. Charter schools, which are also non-selective in their enrollment, are not included in this category in order to allow for comparisons. Included in this category are [magnet schools](#) and [contract schools](#).

PSAE: The Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) is a two-day standardized test taken by all high school juniors in Illinois that assesses students' proficiency in Math, Reading, Science and Writing. Students take the ACT on the first day and a [WorkKeys](#) examination and [Illinois State Board of Education](#)-developed science examination on the second day. An Illinois student is required to take the PSAE to achieve a high school diploma, unless he or she, (i) has an [Individualized Education Program](#) that is incompatible with the PSAE and cannot be modified to comply with the PSAE, (ii) is not proficient in English, or (iii) is enrolled in an alternative education program, including an adult education program, or high school equivalency certificates.

Selective schools: Those schools classified by CPS as [Selective Enrollment](#), [Classical](#), [Career Academy](#), [Military](#), or [Regional Gifted Centers](#) and those schools with selective admissions requirements according to the [CPS High Schools Guide](#) (Chicago High School for the Arts, Chicago

High School for Agricultural Sciences, Michele Clark Academic Preparatory High School, Marie Sklodowska Curie Metropolitan High School, Frederick Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center, Daniel Hale Williams Preparatory School of Medicine, Devry, Collins Academy High School, and Lincoln Park High School.)

Special Education students: Students with disabilities who have been determined to require special education and related services as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This also includes students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) due to a physical or mental disability that affects their involvement and/or progress in the general education curriculum.

Students enrolled (for dropout calculation): Includes all CPS students in grades nine through twelve who (a) were enrolled at any time between the end of the school year being examined and the end of the prior school year and (b) did not permanently transfer out of CPS during that time.

Total Enrollment: The number of students enrolled at a given school or group of schools as of the 20th school day of a given school year.

5-year Graduation Rate Adjusted Cohort Size: The number of ninth graders who were active in either semester of their ninth grade year, AND were in ninth grade for the first time, AND did not permanently transfer out of the district during the five years following their freshman year. For example, the 2009 rate tracks ninth grade students who started in CPS in the 2004-05 school year and graduated from CPS by August of the 2008-09 school year.

5-year Graduation Rate: Number of students who graduate in a cohort, divided by the size of that cohort. Further definitions and clarifications on the CPS graduation rate calculation can be viewed here: (<http://www.cps.edu/Performance/Documents/DataFiles/FiveYearGraduationFactSheet.pdf>).