

Committee Members  
Molly McCullough, Chair  
Susan Mailman, Vice-Chair  
Jermoh Kamara

Administrative Representative  
Marie Morse, EdD.

OFFICE OF THE  
CLERK OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
20 IRVING STREET  
WORCESTER, MA 01609

AGENDA #10

The Standing Committee on TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS will hold a virtual and/or in-person meeting:

on: Tuesday, November 14, 2023

at: 5:00 p.m.

in: Room 410, Durkin Administration Building or online at the link [HERE](#) or below:

<https://worcesterschools.zoom.us/j/85472166668?pwd=anJDWkE4b0tJZ2lSNzFoR3pBYzcxQT09>

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. GENERAL BUSINESS**

qb 3-89.3 Johnson

(March 8, 2023)

To consider a review of the Chapter 74 programs in the comprehensive high schools including enrollment processes, criteria, and acceptance.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

STANDING COMMITTEE: **TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS**

DATE OF MEETING: November 14, 2023

ITEM: gb 3-89.3 Johnson (March 8, 2023)

To consider a review of the Chapter 74 programs in the comprehensive high schools including enrollment processes, criteria, and acceptance.

PRIOR ACTION:

- 3-16-23 - Member McCullough motioned to have this item referred to the Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports to be taken with gb 2-244. On a roll call of 7-0, the motion was approved.
  
- 4-10-23 - Vice-Chair Mailman motioned (with a friendly amendment from Member Kamara) to request information from the Administration as to the data on feeder schools and the demographics of the students who are attending these comprehensive Chapter 74 programs. Chair McCullough motioned to hold this item until June. Motions were taken together. On a roll call of 3-0, the motions were approved.

BACKUP:

Annex A (4 pages) contains a review of the Chapter 74 programs.

RECOMMENDATION OF MAKER:

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Accept and file

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**Administrator:** Marie Morse/Christopher Kursonis  
**Department:** Office of Instruction and School Leadership  
**Date:** November 9, 2023  
**Item Number:** gb #3-89.2  
**Item:** To consider a review of the Chapter 74 programs in the comprehensive high schools including enrollment processes, criteria, and acceptance

### FALL 2023 Comprehensive Ch 74 Stats

WPS District–Fall 2023			
<b>Note: This is a demographic analysis of student applicants to the comprehensive HS Ch 74 programs in WPS.</b>			
	Applicant Pool*	Fall 23 Comprehensive Chapter 74 Enrolled	District Demographics
# of Students	706	212	7499 (Gr 9-12) As of EOY SY23 DESE
Low Income**	73%	62%	73%
Hispanic/Latino	39%	37%	46%
Black	20%	15%	17%
White	31%	39%	27%
Asian	5%	4%	6%
EL status	19%	13%	30%
Special Ed	13%	11%	21%
Gender	50% Male/49% Female	48% Male/52% Female	51% Male/49% Female

\*The Applicant Pool count has eliminated duplicates (i.e., students who applied to more than one program are only counted once).

\*\* Percent of Applicant Pool, Comp Ch 74 Enrolled, or District populations

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<b>Feeding School</b>	<b>Applicant Pool</b>		<b>Fall 23 Comp Ch 74 Enrolled</b>	
Burncoat Middle School	11%	N = 75	8%	N = 17
Claremont	3%	N = 22	4%	N = 8
Forest Grove	22%	N = 153	28%	N = 59
Sullivan Middle	30%	N = 208	33%	N = 70
Worcester East Middle	29%	N = 202	23%	N = 48
Other (private, charter schools)	6%	N = 46	5%	N = 10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>N = 706</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>N = 212</b>

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This will document the criteria used to determine eligibility for inclusion in the lotteries. Once applicants were vetted and eligibility was determined the applicants were assigned a lottery number removing all identifying information. Applications were next sorted by CH74 program. Each program held an individual lottery to create the accepted enrollment list and the associated waitlist. Students who were chosen/accepted via the lottery were notified by email and written letter with a response deadline to accept this placement offer.

If a student declined an offer or did not respond by the deadline the waitlist was accessed and placement offered following the same procedure as detailed in the admissions policy. Once the maximum enrollment is reached the waitlist is held until the end of the first marking period, aka Q1.

**This is an abbreviated pull from the full WPS Admissions policy listing the specific information for the comprehensive programs.**

## VI. ADMISSIONS PROCESS

### 1. Fall Admissions Process for Ninth Grade

Students interested in applying to WTHS or a program at a comprehensive high school for fall admission to the ninth grade must complete an online application. To be eligible to apply, applicants must be Worcester residents who provisionally meet WPS high school academic promotion requirements (and they must have earned greater than or equal to “65” for their 8th grade second quarter marks in English/ESL and mathematics).

- Tiered Lottery (for all programs)
  - i. Criteria: All applicants are assigned to one of three tiers based on attendance and discipline/safety criteria (see Table 1 below). The actual lotteries will be conducted separately for WTHS and each program at a comprehensive high school (as described in the following sections).

Table 1: Criteria Admissions Lottery Tiers

Tier	Attendance	Discipline & Safety
1	No more than ten (10) total unexcused absences in seventh and eighth grades combined.	No more than one (1) long-term suspension (MGL 37H, 37H 1/2, 37H 3/4) from 7th and 8th grade combined.
2	No more than twenty-one (21) total unexcused absences in seventh and eighth grades combined.	No more than two (2) long-term suspensions (MGL 37H, 37H 1/2, 37H 3/4) from 7th and 8th grade combined.
3	Twenty-two or more (22+) unexcused absences in seventh and eighth grades combined.	Three or more (3+) long-term suspensions (MGL 37H, 37H 1/2, 37H 3/4) from 7th and 8th grade combined.

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iii. Admissions Lottery for Comprehensive High School Programs

1. Parents and caregivers will be notified of the lottery date, time, and location via electronic mail and automated phone announcement. This parental notice and a public announcement on the WPS website will be made at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the public admissions lottery.
2. A public lottery is conducted for applicants from each tier for each Chapter 74 program, beginning with Tier 1. Names from Tier 2 and then Tier 3 will then be drawn. Applicants will not be drawn separately by feeder school for the programs at the comprehensive high schools.
3. Students will be accepted or placed on a waiting list in the random order their names are drawn for their respective tiers.

In reviewing the included data please use the following definitions:

Feeder Schools - All grade 8 WPS students have been combined for this data as the comprehensive admissions policy does not utilize quadrant or individual "feeder schools".

CH74 Program - One of the state approved CH74 programs at Doherty Memorial High School - Engineering Technology Academy; North High School - Health Assisting or Business Technology; or South Community High School - Culinary Arts, Diesel Technology, or Early Childhood Education & Care.