



Pittsburgh Science and Technology

Dream. Discover. Design.

An equitable system for admission to The Academy

Pittsburgh Public Schools

Office of High School Excellence

August 5, 2008



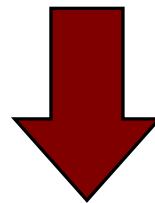
Determining the Optimal Magnet Admissions Process

Accepted students without specific interest in the program, motivation, or prerequisite skills.

“Skimmed” the highest performing, most motivated students, students who also often have the most involved parents

←
Completely random lottery processes...

→
Test based admissions processes...

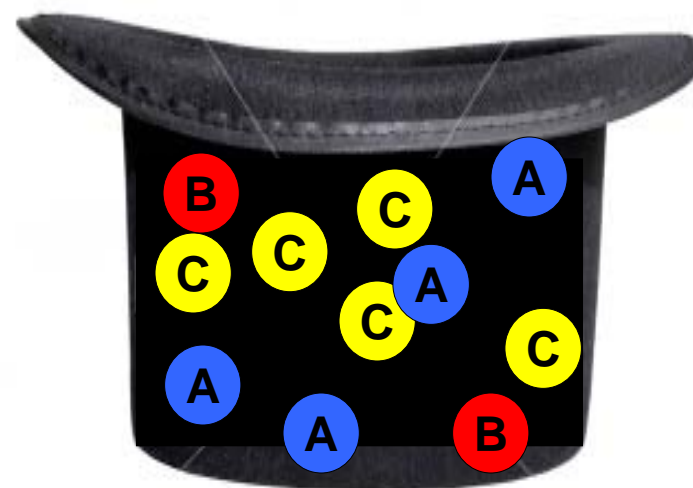


Proposed Process



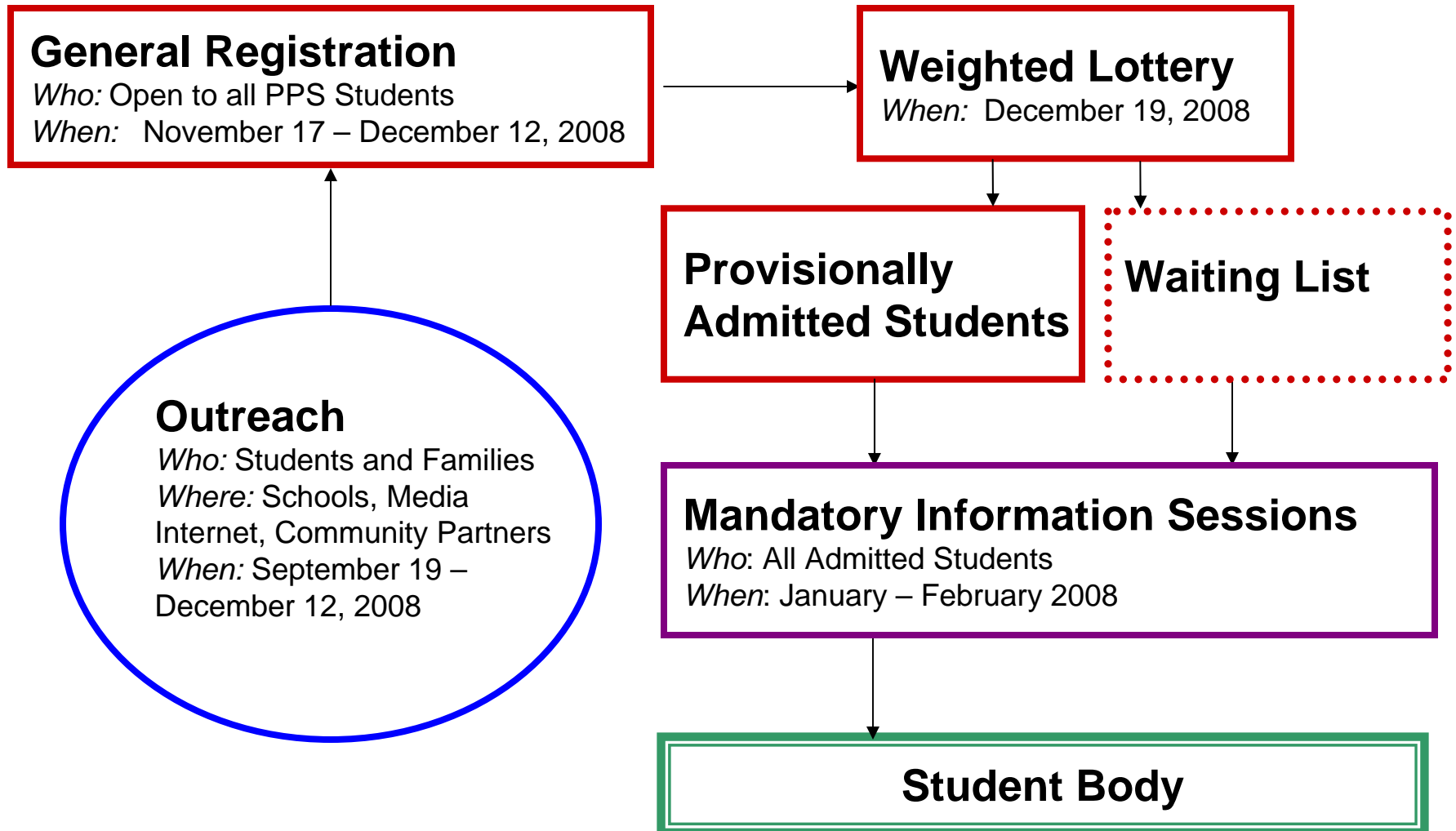
Admission to the school is accessed through a weighted lottery

	Student A	Student B	Student C
Application	✓	✓	✓
Proficiency	✓		
Free or Reduced Lunch		✓	✓
Top 50% of Class on PSSA	✓		✓
Attendance	✓		✓
Carmalt or Lincoln? (9 th only)			✓





The weighted lottery is one part of the proposed admissions process





The process would admit 250 students for 2009-10

- 50 sixth grade students;
- 50 seventh grade students;
- 50 eighth grade students; and
- 100 ninth grade students

The Development Process



Research and development has been a two year process

- Preliminary system developed with two objectives: equity and access. *(September – January, 2006)*
- Research Team presented framework to the Board. *(February, 2007)*
- Steering committees analyzed the process. *(July, 2007 – June, 2008)*
- Technology Department built model for analysis and simulation. *(May, 2008)*
- Overview of the admissions system presented to the Board. *(June, 2008)*
- Revisions were made according data-analysis. *(July, 2008)*
- The solicitor's office reviewed the proposed process. *(July, 2008)*
- Board permission is requested to implement the system. *(August, 2008)*



Components of the lottery were inspired by a variety of sources

- University admissions systems (*i.e. University of California*)
 - The Chicago Public School District's selective enrollment process for eight Gifted and Enriched Academic Program (GEAP) schools*
 - Research on the impact of inclusive lotteries for public and charter school admissions (*Crain, R.L. et al. 1992, Cullen, J.B et al. 2004...*)
 - The NBA Draft Lottery (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_Draft_Lottery)
 - The successful use of information sessions and parent, student compacts at specialized public schools (*Denver School of Science and Technology*) and charter schools (*KIPP Schools*)
 - Research about the impact of clear expectations on academic motivation (*Pressley, M. et al. 2006*)
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* For more info about GEAP schools see the CPS Selective Enrollment Homepage and related pages: <http://www.selectiveenrollment.org/index.jsp?rn=8392172>