



Exam High School Admissions Detroit, MI April 27, 2021

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Community District**

Detroit's Context

104 Schools serving K-12

Hyper-competitive market – Charter Schools, open enrollment with surrounding Districts

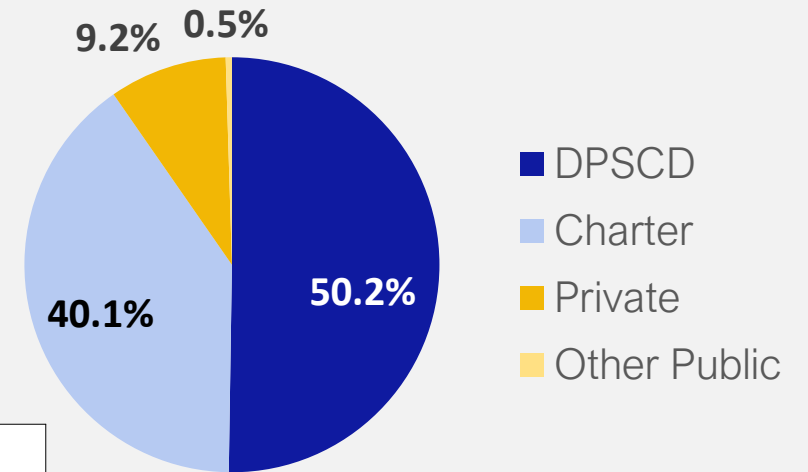
Resource limitations across Detroit – e.g., digital access

6 Exam High Schools

Drive DPSCD high school enrollment from out-of-district students

DPSCD	104
Charter	83
Private	19
Other Public	1
Grand Total	207

Detroit School Market



Application Requirements

Online Application

- 750-word essay written by the student
- Transcript/ Report Card showing the two most recent school years and, if applicable, year-to-date progress reports
- Three references (contact information only)

Exam

- High School Placement Test
- Administered via paper/pencil
- No interruption in HSPT administration in 2020 or 2021
- The exam may be taken once each annual admission cycle



New Admission Process in 2018

Old Process

- Most students took the exam
- One round of applications
- Paper applications
- Appeal process that included students who didn't take the exam, applied late
- Lack of transparency
- District 8th graders opted in

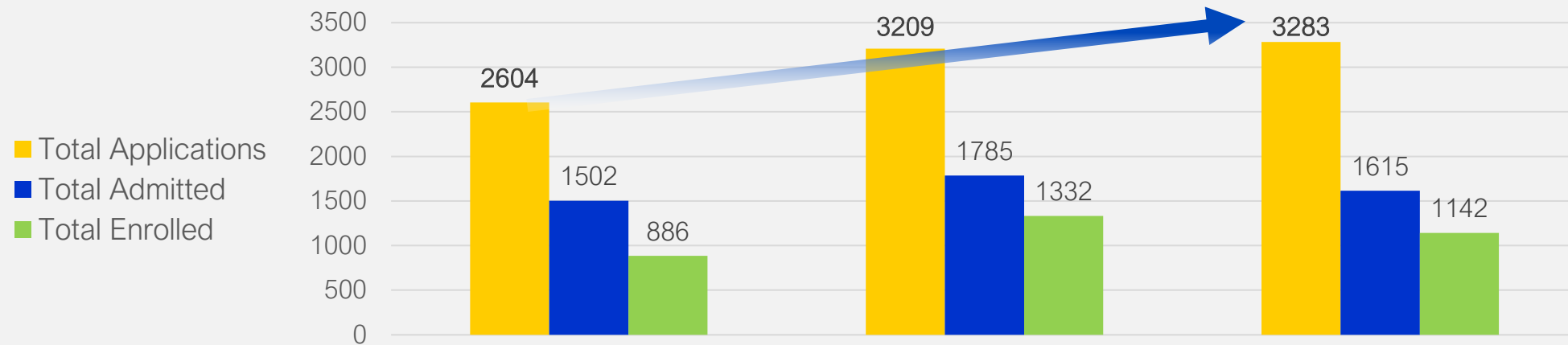
New Process

- All students take the exam
- Two rounds of application
- Online application
- Formal petition process that allows for school-level decision making
- Fully transparent process
- District 8th graders take the exam in school



Applications Increased After Process Changed

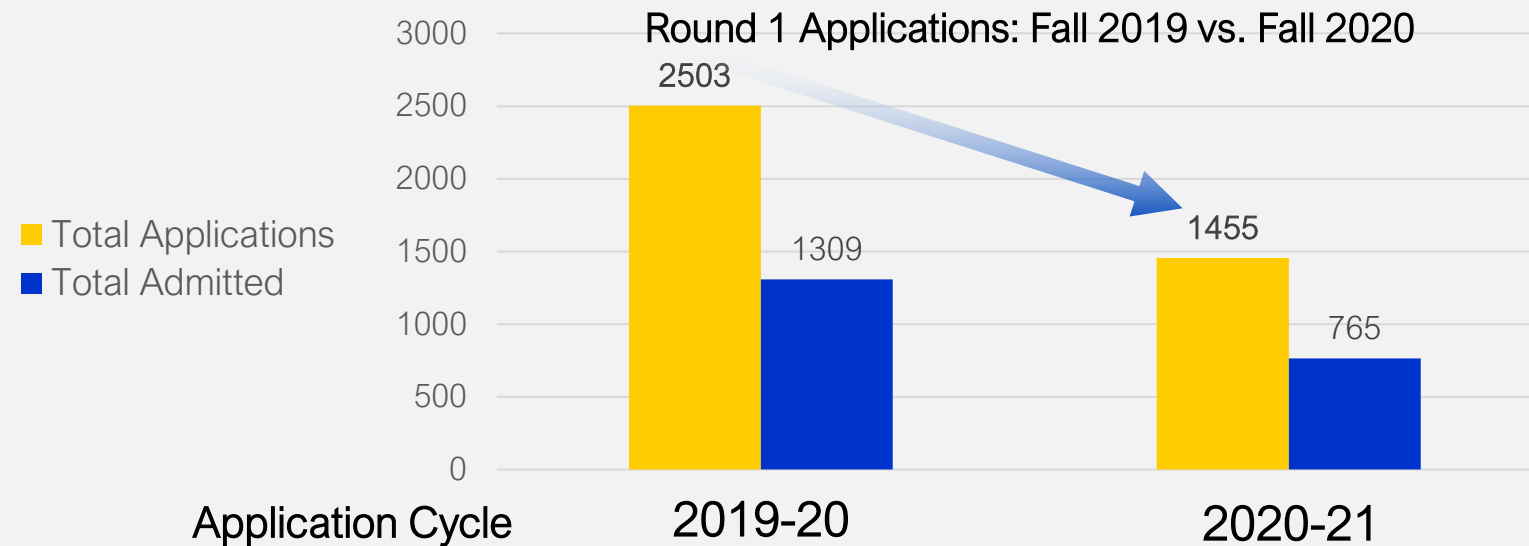
DPSCD Examination High School Applications: 3-year Comparison*



Application Cycle	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Total Applicants	2,604	3,209	3,283
% in district	44%	47%	45%
% out of district (OOD)	56%	53%	55%
% Accepted	58%	56%	49%
% Accepted - in district	62%	58%	47%
% Accepted – OOD	54%	54%	51%
% Enrolled (of Accepted)	59%	75%	71%

*All data presented covers applications for grade 9, which represents the bulk of applications for Examination High Schools

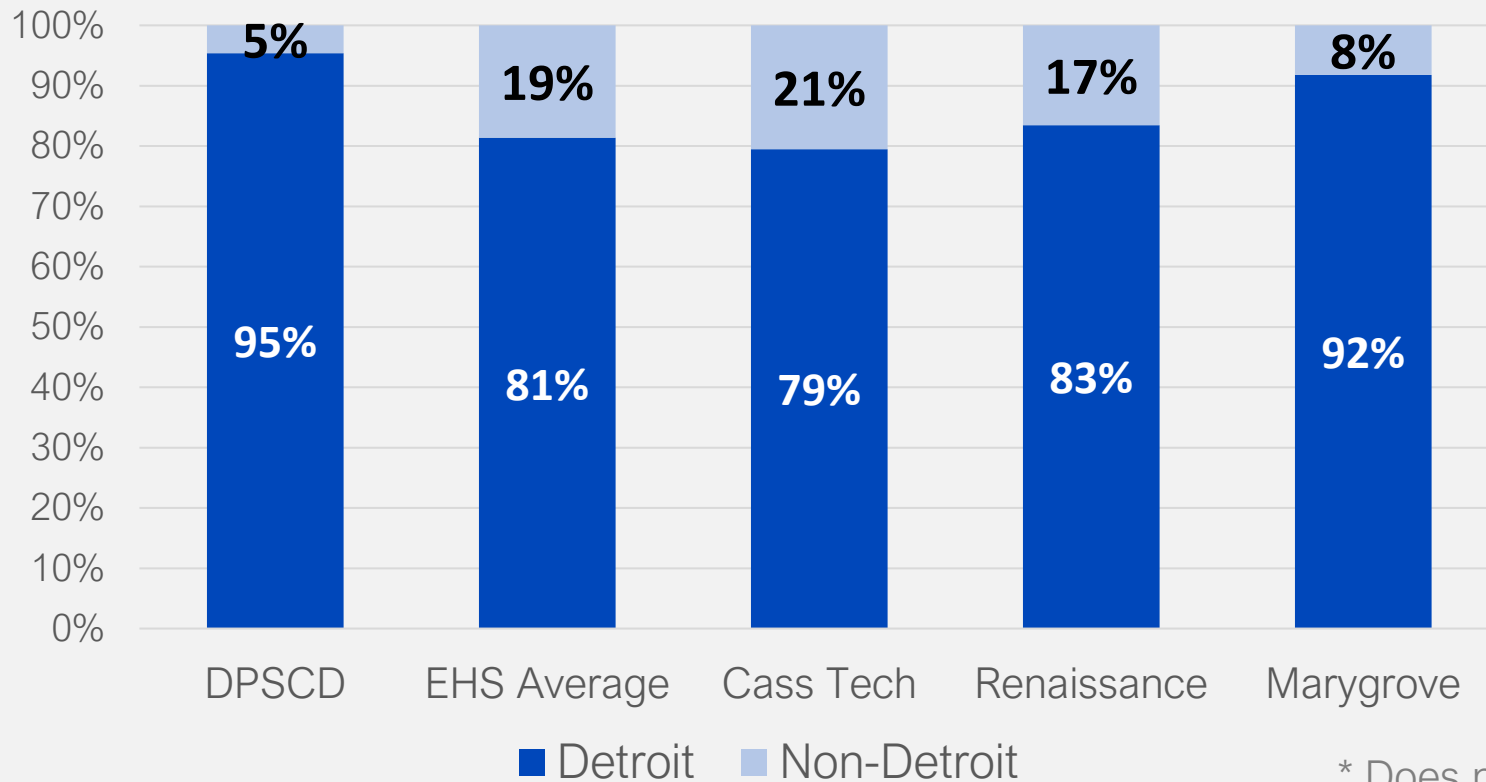
Applications fell in Fall 2021; COVID 19 was a key driver



Application Cycle	2019-20	2020-21
Total Round 1 Applicants	2,503	1,455
% in district	50.6%	50.4%
% out of district (OOD)	49.4%	49.6%
% Accepted	52.3%	52.6%
% Accepted - in district	50%	62%
% Accepted – OOD	53%	42%

81% of Enrolled Students Live in Detroit

Enrolled Students: 2017 – 2020*



Student Demographics
2020-21 School Year

School	Black	Hispanic	Asian	White	Other or n/a
EHS Avg.*	84%	7%	3%	2%	5%
Cass	77%	10%	5%	2%	6%
Renaissance	95%	.4%	0%	.1%	4%
Marygrove	97%	0%	0%	2%	1%

* Does not include 2 Exam schools that also have neighborhood boundaries

Application Score breakdown

Application Component	Point Value
Examination	45
Grade Point Average	30
Student-Authored Essay	20
DPSCD Current Student Bonus	+10
 GPA complete and on time	+5
Marygrove applicants - Primary Area	+10
Marygrove applicants - Secondary Area	+5



The GPA on-time bonus is applied to DPSCD students with 2 years of continuous enrollment and out-of-district students who submit transcript or set of report cards that meet our submission criteria by the application deadline.

Testing in a Pandemic



- Contactless sign-in and dismissal processes
- Social distancing and mask wearing strictly enforced
- Students are assigned staggered arrival times
- Maximum of 10 students per classroom; additional test dates
- More frequent cleaning of restrooms, common spaces, handrails, etc.
- Parents not allowed inside the building for arrival or dismissal.



Scoring: Admissions Essays



Challenge: Objectivity in scoring student essays.

- Scored by school counselors, who are grouped into cohorts that work for two to three days per round.
- Each essay is scored on a scale of 0-20 by at least two reviewers.
- Applications are randomly assigned to reviewers, who are given a user account for the application platform.
- Applications that receive two reviews that are 6 or more points apart receive a third or, if necessary, fourth review.
- The average score of all reviews becomes the student's essay score.

	0	2	4	This rubric is used to score student writing samples. The maximum score is 20 points. The writing sample accounts for 20 percent of the final application score.	
Appropriately responds to questions.	Does not adequately respond to questions. Responded to one or none of the guiding questions	Responds appropriately to two of the guiding questions	Responds appropriately to three or more of the guiding questions		
	0	2	4	8	10
Presents themselves as a convincing candidate	Provides no reasons why he/she would be a good candidate	Reasons provided are vague. There was no supporting information or evidence to highlight standout qualities; only speaks to the desire to attend	Provides compelling reasons why he/she would be a good candidate. Still, answers lack support and evidence and lack uniqueness of student quality over simple desire to attend	Demonstrates through evidence or anecdotes that he/she is well rounded and prepared academically for the rigor of an exam school. Provides clear support for his/her value to the student body	GPA and other exceptional qualities such as leadership, and participation in extracurricular activities are clearly demonstrated. Student is at the highest echelon of candidates and cites those characteristics as evidence for admission
	0	2	4	6	
Organization, structure, grammar	Grammar is improper; includes informal language and poor formatting that distracts from the coherence of the essay	The number of grammatical errors distract from an otherwise well formatted essay	Few issues with grammar; otherwise well formatted, organized and clearly constructed	No grammatical mistakes or mistakes in spelling. Style and voice are evident. Well organized, clear, formal. Clearly reviewed and revised before submission	

The [essay rubric](#) is available to all applicants online.

Scoring: Academic Performance

[illegible]

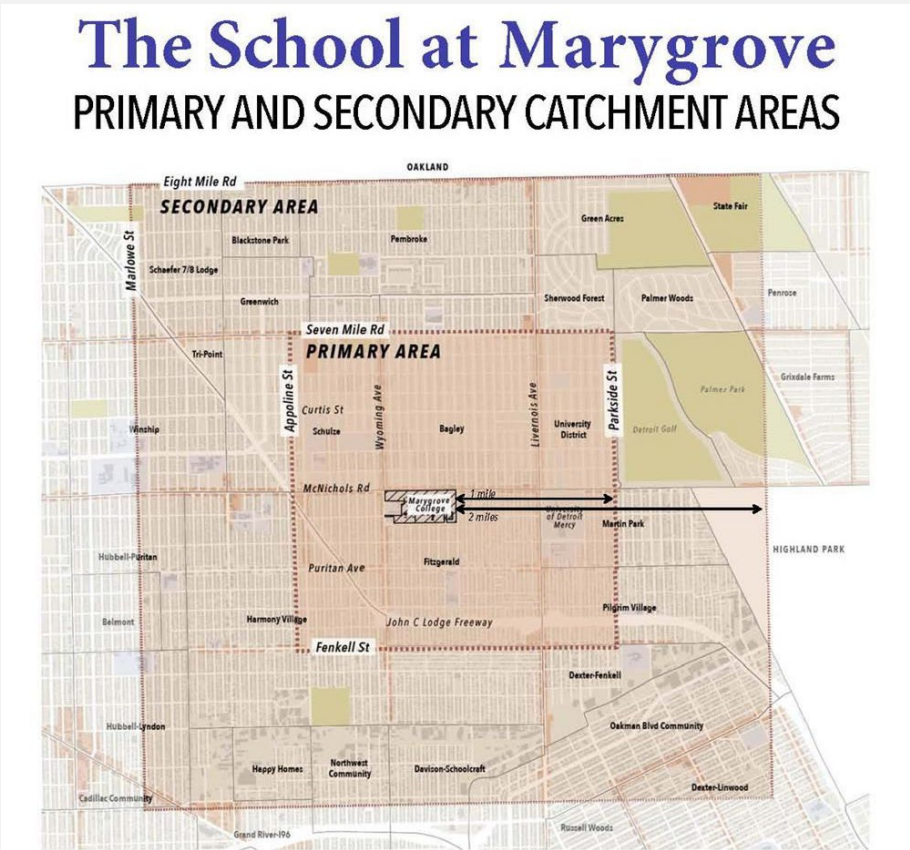
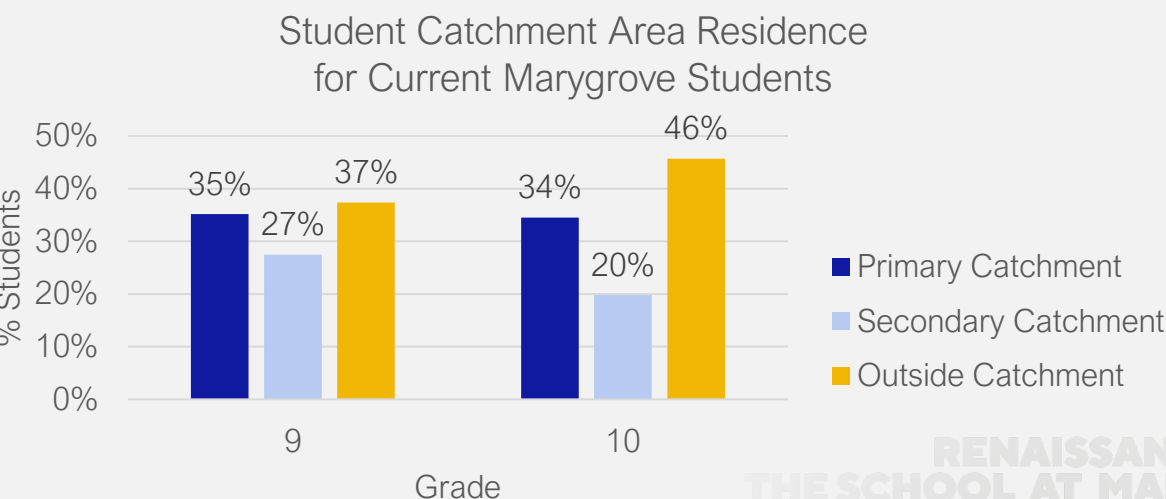
We use a common GPA calculation tool that offers flexibility across report card types (trimester, semester, annual, etc.) and qualifying subjects. Counselors enter the data and it calculates a GPA.

-  **Challenge:** With applicants from more than 200 schools, we have to norm across different report card formats, courses taken and grades.
-  If the report cards do not show the student's Cumulative Grade Point Average, one is calculated using the report cards submitted. Partially complete report cards earn a commensurate proportion of the available GPA points.
 -  GPA calculation is based on Math, ELA, Science and Social Studies grades only.
 -  Due to the interruption in school as a result of Covid-19, grades from Spring 2020 are not included in GPA calculations for Fall 2021 admissions.
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Bonus Points - Impact

The School at Marygrove is operated through a neighborhood partnership that has prioritized matriculation from within 2 miles of the campus.

The school will eventually become a neighborhood school serving K-12 students.



Applicant Support

The District offers online support for families who need assistance with completing selective admission applications. The online support opportunities include phone/ video calls, webinars, and open houses.

Phone/ Video Support

- One-on-one application assistance with application
- 30 – minute appointments conducted via Phone or Teams video

Application and School Webinars

- 1 – 2-hour informational webinar
- Webinars include an overview of schools, application process, and how to apply

Tutoring for District students ➤

225

Phone/ Video Support
calls from October 2020
to Present

YOU WILL RISE

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

DROP-IN VIRTUAL TUTORING SESSIONS
Examination High Schools
2021 Application and Admission

MONDAYS THROUGH THURSDAYS
Monday April 12, 2021, through
Thursday May 6, 2021

Detroit Public Schools Community District will offer drop-in virtual tutoring sessions for the required Examination High School Placement Test for Fall 2021.
This service will be open to students currently enrolled in the District. Unlimited tutoring session options:
Mathematics and Quantitative Skills | Verbal and Language | Reading Comprehension

For additional information, key resources and to apply:
Visit detroitk12.org/examschools | Call (313) 873-6345

Cass Technical High School • Communication and Media Arts High School • Renaissance High School
Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School • Southeastern High School • The School at Marygrove

DPSCD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, religion, height, weight, citizenship, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category in its educational programs and activities, including employment and admissions. Questions? Concerns? Contact the Civil Rights Coordinator at (313) 873-6345 or dpscd.civilrights@dpscd.net. Last updated: 10/20/2020

Equitable Access

- District 8th grade students take the exam during the school day. Due to the pandemic, testing is on an opt-in basis. Weekday and weekend options were offered.
- DPSCD students are offered free tutoring for the exam. They may participate in as many online sessions as desired.
- School counselors assist students with their applications. The application platform has a “collaboration” feature that allows students to share their in-progress application with teachers, counselors, mentors, etc. for support.
- Application completion help offered to all applicants.

Web site with resources:
Detroitk12.org/examschools

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