**TJ “merit-lottery” Admission Proposal vs the Other Lottery Schools**

FCPS Superintendent has presented a “merit-lottery” proposal for TJ admissions and cited five schools as examples of success of lottery system. However when we analysis the facts of these schools, the result of lottery admissions is not near rosy as claimed.

Among the example schools, all schools have fewer students and, most schools have much fewer students than TJ. Two out of five schools admit students by lottery from elementary school, where students have time to build up skills and knowledge for high school. Two schools that do admit students from high school have higher eligibility criteria. All schools, where data is available, have high dropout rate ranges from 20% to 70%.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **School** | **Eligibility Criteria** | **Dropout Rate** | **Acceptance Rate** | **Lottery from Grade** | **9th Grade student number** | **Ranking Nationally by US News Report** |
| BASIS Charter School | None | 60%-70% | N/A | 4th Grade | 102 in 2016 | 49 |
| Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science & Technology | \* Carnegie-eligible Accelerated Algebra (or higher) must earn a passing score for the entire course and the End of Course assessment if required. \* Algebra I must earn a fall semester course grade of "A" (90-100) and an End of Course assessment score of "distinguished" (level 4) OR score 550 or higher on the math portion of the SAT or PSAT 8/9. | 50% | 53% in 2020 | 9th Grade | 375 in 2020 | 12 |
| International Community School (Washington) | None | 40% | N/A | 6th Grade | 61 in 2016 | Unranked |
| Loveless Academic Magnet Program High School | Admission criteria is highly selective and only students with the best academic credentials are accepted. Grades, standardized test scores, academic records, and discipline records are the basis for acceptance | 20% | N/A | 9th Grade | 142 in 2016 | 23 |
| Raisbeck Aviation High school (highly specialized in certain fields) | None | Dropout rate can’t be determined due to Lottery conducted in all grades. | 26% | 9th Grade | 105 | 108 |
| TJ Proposal | GPA 3.5 + Algebra I + questionnaires | Currently 7%, after Lottery?  | Predicted <10%  | 9th Grade | 500 | Predicted to be #250 by an economist (#6 at Fairfax County)  |

References:

TJ Admissions Proposal: [https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/BTGKX652F413/$file/TJHSST%20Admissions%20Merit%20Lottery%20Proposal.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/BTGKX652F413/%24file/TJHSST%20Admissions%20Merit%20Lottery%20Proposal.pdf)

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Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science & Technology: <http://gcps-communique.com/archive/2019/1/17/registration-deadline-approaches-for-gsmst-for-2019-20-school-year>

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International Community School (Washington): <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/washington/districts/lake-washington-school-district/international-community-school-20961>

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<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/alabama/districts/montgomery-county/loveless-academic-magnet-program-high-school-281>

Raisbeck Aviation High school: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/education/aviation-high-seeks-diversity-with-enrollment-lottery/>

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/washington/districts/highline-school-district/aviation-high-school-20908>

Note: Dropout rate is calculated by the number of students in 9th grade and 12th grade at student enrollment chart provided in US News Report, except BASIS Charter School, which is taken from the article referenced above.