

Ballot valid through 10/6/2020



# 2020-10 TJ Admissions Revised Merit Lottery Survey

## 1. Introduction

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On September 15, 2020, Superintendent Brabrand released a “[Merit Lottery](#)” proposal for TJ admissions, to be implemented this year. Under the Merit Lottery proposal, Applicants who meet the basic requirements of **3.5 core class GPA, enrollment in Algebra I**, and “revised **Student Information Sheet (SIS)** to include questionnaire/essay” will be selected for admission by lottery. Each of the five FCPS regions would get 70 slots. The proposal removed three of the five main factors considered under the current admissions process. The Merit Lottery proposal removed the current requirements of Assessment tests (Quant-Q and ACT Aspire Reading & Science), Teacher Recommendations, and Problem-solving essay. A “holistic review” under the Merit Lottery proposal was mentioned but no detail was provided.

On October 2, Superintendent Braband released a “[Revised Merit Lottery](#)” proposal, to be considered by the School Board on October 6. The new plan explained the “**holistic review**” will include the following requirements:

- **Student Portrait Sheet** (“designed to draw out qualities in areas aligned to Portrait of a Graduate and 21st Century Skills”)
  - Collaborator
  - Communicator
  - Creative & Critical Thinker
  - Ethical/Global Citizen
  - Goal-Directed & Resilient Individual
  - Innovator
  - Leader
  - Problem Solver
- **Problem-Solving Essay**
  - Math- or science-based problem with multiple variables
  - Response in essay format
- **Experience Factors**
  - Special education
  - English language learner
  - Economically disadvantaged
  - Under-represented FCPS school (3 or fewer offered over the last 3 years)

Under this revised process, all applicants need to meet the basic requirements as outlined above, including 3.5 GPA, enrollment in Algebra I, the Student Information Sheet, the Student Portrait Sheet, the Problem-Solving Essay, and the Experience Factors.

Two main changes were highlighted in this Revised Merit Lottery admissions process:

1. **100 seats** will be offered to “highest-evaluated” applicants based on “a holistic review of their application.” Remaining 400 seats will be filled by lottery.
2. FCPS region slots are slightly amended to “be proportional to student enrollment.”