

Screened Programs

Screened programs evaluate applicants based on their academic grades, standardized test scores, attendance and punctuality. When a program is listed as “Screened,” it means that program has target criteria by which a student is evaluated for admission.

Academic Screens

High Academic Screens generally require:

- 85-90% (minimum) in major subject areas
- Test Scores of Level 3-4
- Good attendance & punctuality

Academic Screens generally require:

- 70-80% (minimum) in major subject areas
- Test Scores of Level 2-4
- Good attendance & punctuality

In addition, some screened programs also evaluate applicants using one or more of the following:

| Activity | Description |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Writing Sample | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May involve any (or any combination) of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An essay that has already been graded by teachers at your school ○ An essay that you write “on the spot” when you visit the high school ○ An essay written on your own time in response to a specific prompt from the high school • Schools may ask for a personal essay or a reaction to a quotation, current or historical event, or some other prompt |
| Interview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be conducted in a one-on-one or a group setting • May be a structured conversation (with specific questions) or an unstructured conversation (with back-and-forth dialogue) |
| Group Activity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May involve group problem-solving, collaboration and storytelling • Schools may assess how students interact with their peers |
| Qualifying Assessment/ Diagnostic Test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any qualifying assessments or diagnostic tests required for screened programs are school-based (meaning each school creates and administers its own assessments) • School-based assessments should NOT be confused with the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT), which is required for entrance into the eight specialized exam high schools |
| Academic Portfolio | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collection of your academic work, within or across disciplines • Check with schools for specific requirements |
| Online Activity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May involve an essay or writing sample • May include online videos, reading, images, or other material as prompts |

Activities required for screened programs are listed in the “Selection Criteria,” located under each program in the High School Directory.