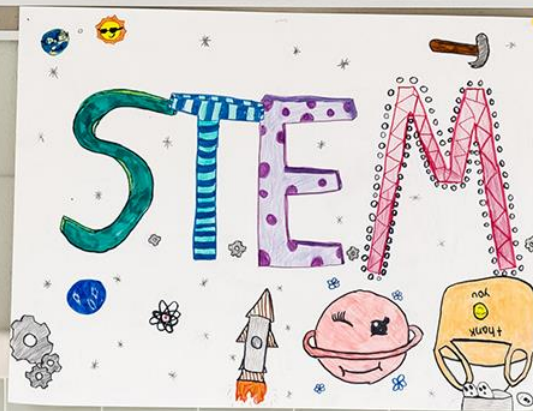


Revised Merit Lottery Proposal

Expanding Our Talent Search



Agenda

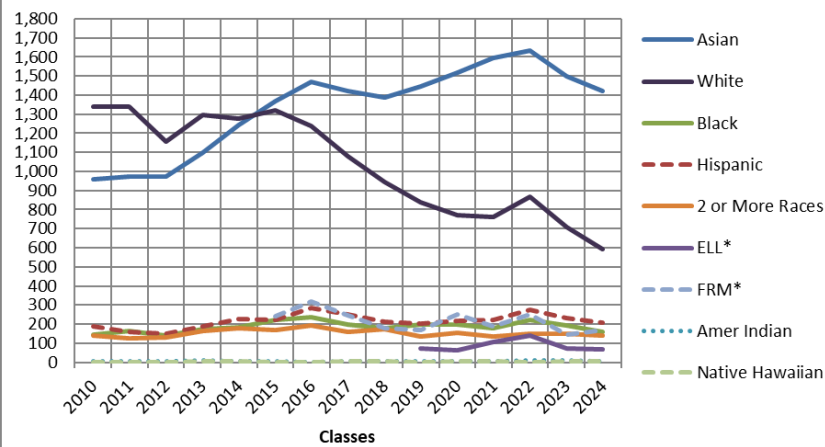


- Background
- Original Merit Lottery Proposal
- Revised Merit Lottery Proposal
- Student Outreach Plan
- Caring Culture Supports

The mission of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology is to provide students with a **challenging learning environment** focused on math, science, and technology, to **inspire joy at the prospect of discovery**, and to **foster a culture of innovation** based on ethical behavior and the shared interests of humanity.

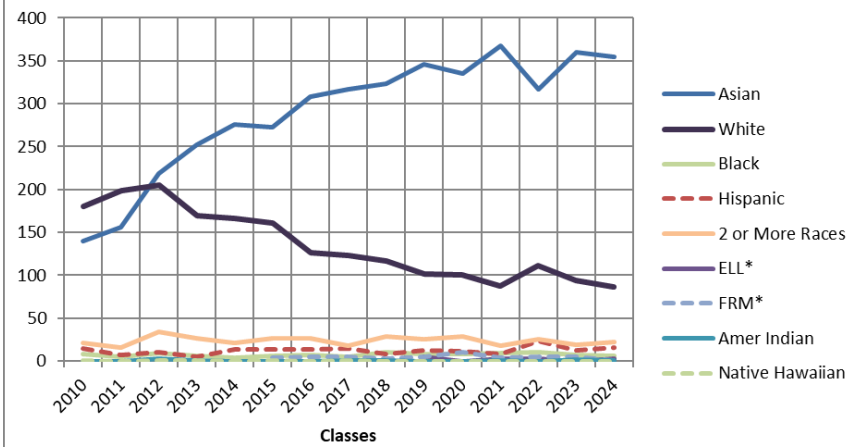
Historical Admissions Data

Applicants



*FCPS students only

Offers



*FCPS students only

Original Merit Lottery Proposal (Shared on 9/15/2020)

Application

- Application Requirements
 - Core Class 3.5 GPA
 - Enrolled in Algebra I
 - Residency Requirements
 - Student Portrait Sheet (formerly Student Information Sheet) to include questionnaire/problem solving demonstration

Selection

- Merit lottery would be applied to all applicants
 - 500 total seats
 - 70% of seats (350) for FCPS, 70 per region
 - 30% of seats (150) for participating jurisdictions with proportional representation
 - Rolling admissions to keep a class of 500



Advantages

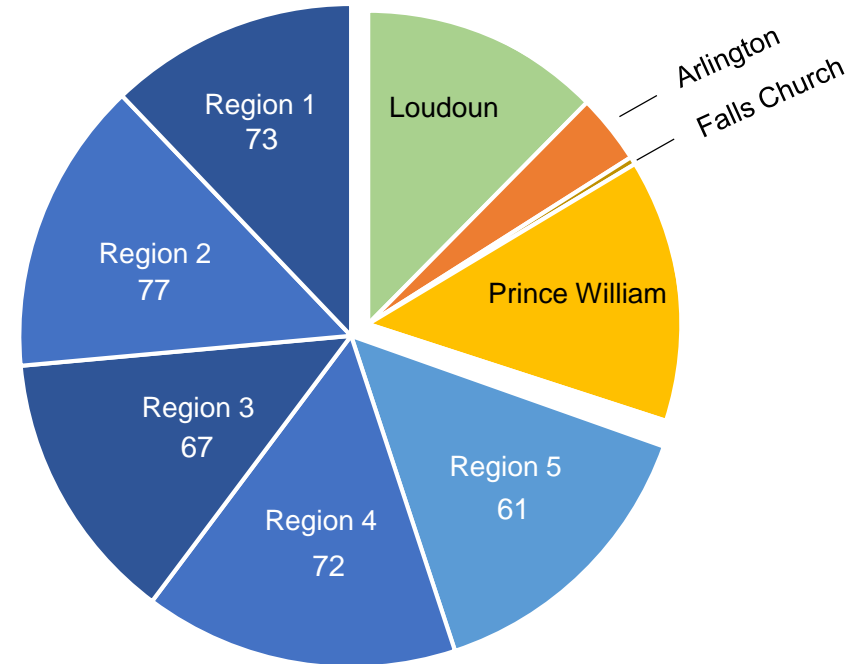
- Statistically should provide the greater increase in admittance for underrepresented groups among the two proposals
- Provides the greatest geographic diversity for FCPS students

Concerns

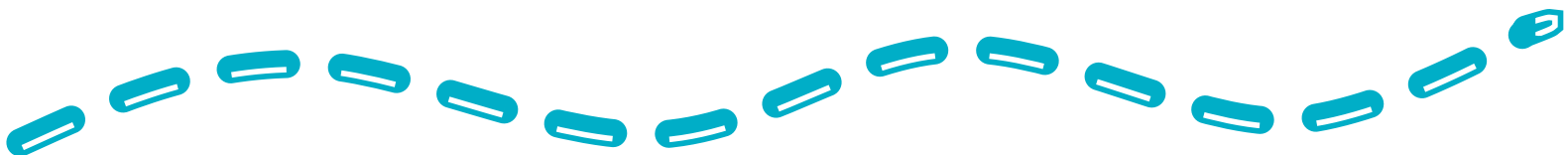
- Statistically may prevent some top performers from gaining entry into TJHSST
- FCPS region representation is not proportional to student enrollment*
- Introduces the most change to the process among the two proposals

*Proportional representation is recommended: see next slide

- FCPS: 350 seats (proportional based on student enrollment)
- Loudoun: 62 seats
- Arlington: 18 seats
- Falls Church: 2 seats
- Prince William: 68 seats
- Private school applicants will be assigned a pathway based on residency



The numbers represented are based on the allowed ratio student cap for the 2019-2020 freshman application



- To be accepted into the Merit Lottery, students would need to meet minimum requirements and be randomly selected within their pathway
- Student Portrait Sheet is 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)

Merit Lottery Proposal (Newly revised)

- Application process would remain unchanged from the original Merit Lottery proposal
- Revisions to merit lottery process
 - **Highest-evaluated students will be offered an opportunity to fill 20% of available seats (100) based on a holistic review of their application**
 - Remaining 400 seats will be filled by merit lottery
 - FCPS region slots will be **proportional to student enrollment**
 - Rolling admissions to keep a class of 500



- To be accepted into the Revised Merit Lottery, students would need to meet minimum requirements (unchanged)
 - Student Portrait Sheet
 - Problem-Solving Essay
 - Experience Factors
- The highest-evaluated 100 students would be offered admissions. The remaining students would be selected randomly within their pathway.

FCPS Pathways

The caps for sending jurisdictions will remain unchanged.

Using the proportional approach to the Revised Merit Lottery, the lowest number for lottery selections per region would be:

- Region 1: 52
- Region 2: 55
- Region 3: 48
- Region 4: 52
- Region 5: 42

This assumes all 100 students selected through the holistic review come from FCPS.

Advantages

- Statistically should provide some increase in admittance for underrepresented groups
- Allows top performers entry into TJHSST
- Region representation is proportional to student enrollment in FCPS

Concerns

- The two-tiered admissions process may have unintended impacts on the Caring Culture at TJHSST
- May continue to admit more students from a few top-performing FCPS middle schools
- Introduces a moderate change to the process

Next Step Responses



Present to students in every public school (FCPS and participating jurisdictions)

Present to parents and the community in evening sessions



Send recruitment emails/letters to **all** eligible students



Conduct a virtual open house to include a tour, student speakers, teachers presenting their programs, and an overview of student supports



Conduct targeted recruitment of underrepresented students, with input from liaison counselors and school counselors

All elements of this outreach plan will be available in multiple languages

- Provide Admissions Presentations to 95 participating public middle schools and 100+ private schools
 - School overview
 - Admissions process
 - Important dates/deadlines
- Communication Plan
 - Coordinate with school leaders to provide information about presentations
 - FCPS Facebook and Twitter
 - News You Choose
 - Admissions Website



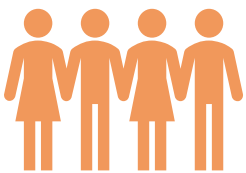
- FCPS
 - Send an invitation email to eligible students and their parents encouraging them to apply to TJHSST
 - Link to virtual tour included
 - Provide dates for presentation schedules
 - Provide contact information for direct access to the Admissions Office
- Non-FCPS
 - Share communication for distribution to same students in each school division (public and private)



- Provide opportunity for prospective applicants and families to virtually experience TJHSST
 - Showcase the school to highlight its unique features
 - Student interviews to demonstrate the background and skills of the student body
 - Staff interviews to showcase the additional opportunities students experience
 - Administration interviews to provide an overview of student supports
 - Admissions office interviews to explain the Merit Lottery process

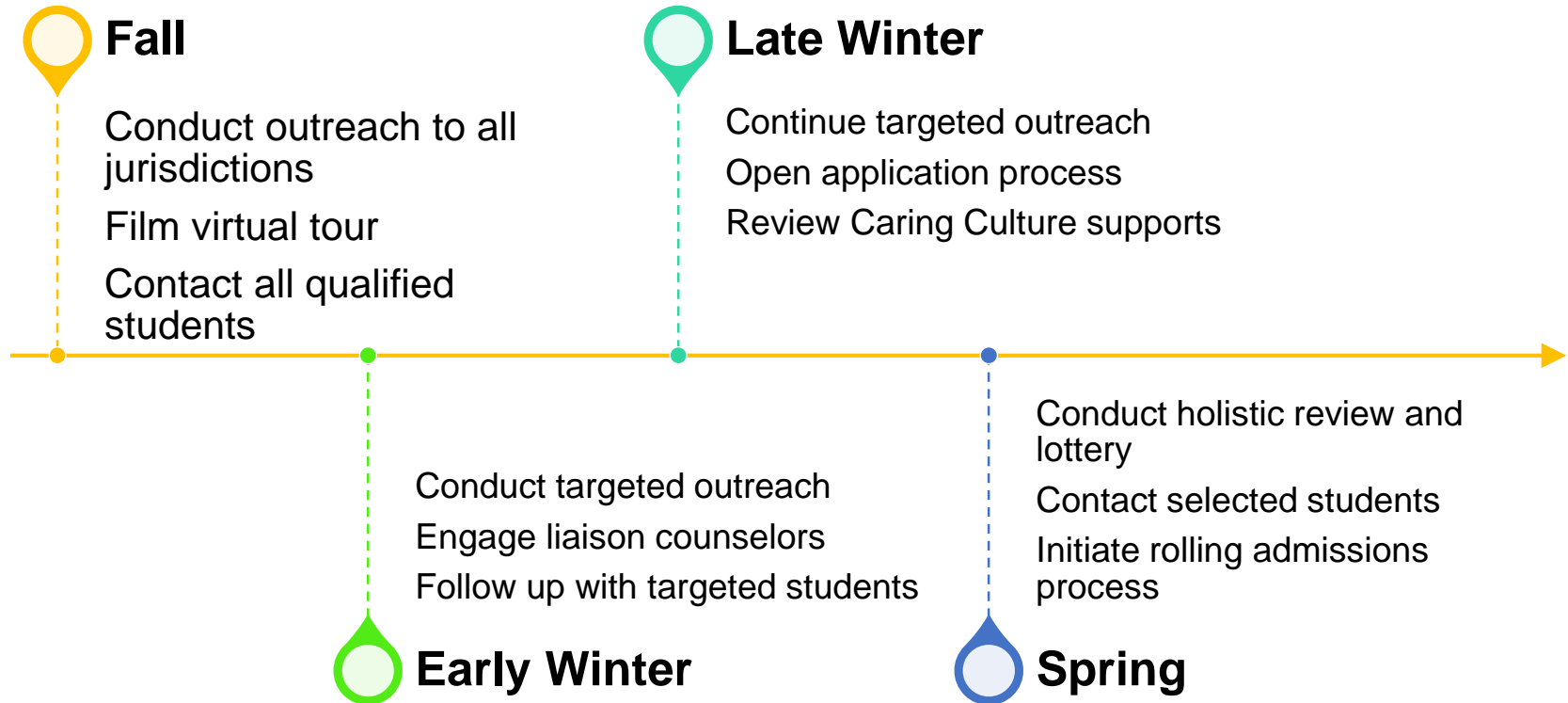


- Provide underrepresented students STEM programming
 - Generate excitement of learning math and science
 - Enrichment activities
 - After-school/summer enrichment programs (robotics, computer programming)
 - Field trip opportunities (Think-a-Bit labs, Chesapeake Bay Foundation)
 - Family engagement activities (Techstravaganza, TJ Diversity Open House)
 - Quarterly STEM Times newsletter



- Transition resources for students
 - Academic supports: summer enrichment courses, organizational and study skills support, advisory groups, 8th period tutoring
 - Social and Emotional supports: student mentors, teacher advisory, lessons on social-emotional learning, 8th period clubs
 - Schoolwide emphasis for all students, particularly grades 10-12, regarding accepting and celebrating all students at TJ
- Professional development for staff
 - Continued professional development on cultural responsiveness
 - Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) training
 - [Challenge Success](#) ongoing resources

- Wrap-around support for students
 - Continued School Improvement and Innovation Plan (SIIP) goals: trusted adult, student advocacy, managing workload and expectations, equitable practices supporting diversity
 - Personal connections and regular check-ins (student and parent) with counselors
 - Challenge Success Team support
 - TJ Mental Wellness Coalition (student led committee) support
 - Continued partnership with PTSA and TJ Partnership Fund relative to diversity committees and events that support teachers, students, and parents



Additional next step responses will be developed and posted in a separate presentation before the School Board meeting

