

Understanding Tie-Breakers

For High School Programs

Definition

Tie-Breaker: The method used to determine the order in which applicants are placed in line for selections when the total points achieved is the same.

What types of programs could use the tie-breaker method?
Any program that selects students based on total points may need to conduct a tie-breaker among its applicants.

When does a tie-breaker need to be used?
Tie-breakers are used when students have the same point total and there are not enough seats for everyone with a tied score to receive an offer.

Choice High Schools

Which specific programs are included?

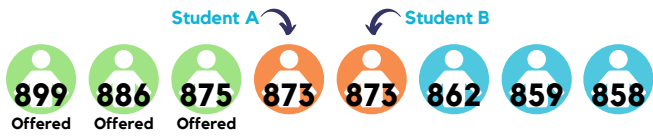
All choice programs that use a points-based selection process, including IB, Military, Fine & Performing Arts, and CTE programs

How does it work?

1. The total number of points is calculated based on the requirements for every program.
2. All eligible students are placed in descending total point order (highest to lowest).
3. If there is a case of students with the same total points and not enough seats for all students to get an offer, the tie-breaker is applied.

Tie- Breaker Example

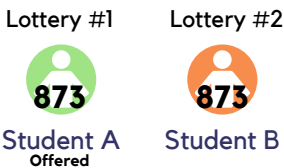
Students are all placed in descending total point order. The orange students have the same point total of **873**. There is only one seat left, so a tie-breaker will be applied.



Students' Total Points are Tied

A computerized lottery will determine the order that the tied students will be placed in the line.

Student A and student B are both placed into a computerized lottery and given a lottery number.



When the computerized lottery was run, Student A was given lottery #1 and Student B was given Lottery #2. Student A will be placed in line before Student B.

Total Points CAN be made up of a combination of one or more of the following:

- CPS HS Admissions Exam- Reading Score
- CPS HS Admissions Exam- Math Score
- Final Grades
- Audition Scores
- Additional Points for Attendance Area
(Please See Scoring Rubrics on the GoCPS Page for specifics)

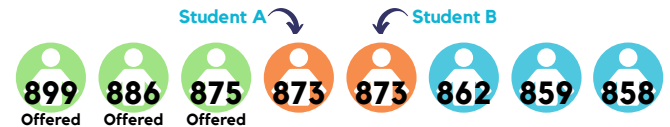
Selective Enrollment High Schools

How does it work?

1. The total number of points is calculated based on the CPS HSAT score and the final 7th-grade grades.
2. All eligible students are placed in descending total point order (highest to lowest).
3. If there is a case of students with the same total points and not enough seats for all students to get an offer, the tie-breaker is applied.

Tie- Breaker Example

Students are all placed in descending total point order. The orange students have the same point total of **873**. There is only one seat left, a tie-breaker will take place.



Students' Total Points are Tied

Specific scores from the CPS HSAT will be used.

Scenario #1	Student A	Student B
Math Standard Score	295	291

Student A has a higher standard score on the math portion of the entrance exam and so they will be placed before Student B in the line.

Scenario #2	Student A	Student B
Math Standard Score	295	295
Reading Standard Score	293	285

Both students have the same Math scores so we will then look at the Reading standard scores. Because Student A has a higher reading standard score, they are placed before Student B in the line.

If Math and the Reading Standard Scores are the same, a random computerized lottery will take place to determine the order the students are placed in line.

Order that the tie-breaker is run

Total Number of Points

Math Standard Score

Reading Standard Score

Random Computerized Lottery