

# **Vocational Education Justice Coalition**

**PRESS CONFERENCE  
WILL BEGIN SHORTLY**

# Vocational Education Justice Coalition

## **Community Groups**

Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts, Citizens for Public Schools, Collaborative Parent Leadership Network (CPLAN), Greater Boston Latino Network, La Collaborativa, Massachusetts Advocates for Children, Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN), Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance, Progressive Democrats Massachusetts, Revere Youth in Action, United Interfaith Action of SE MA, Worcester Interfaith

## **Civil Rights Groups**

Center for Law & Education, NAACP-New England Area Conference

## **Unions**

American Federation of Teachers MA, Greater Boston Building Trades Council, Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA), North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters

# ADMISSIONS POLICY

The ADMISSIONS POLICY for Vocational Schools ranks students by

- GRADES
- ATTENDANCE
- DISCIPLINE
- GUIDANCE COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATIONS
- INTERVIEW (optional)

Vocational Schools are allowed to operate a LOTTERY instead, but NONE of them do that. **ALL USE THIS RANKING SYSTEM.**

# POLICY IMPACT

These admissions factors result in

- Racial Discrimination
- Higher proportions of students of color, English learners, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students are made ineligible.

While Vocational Schools are public schools, the use of ranking **does not ensure equal opportunity** in the admissions process.

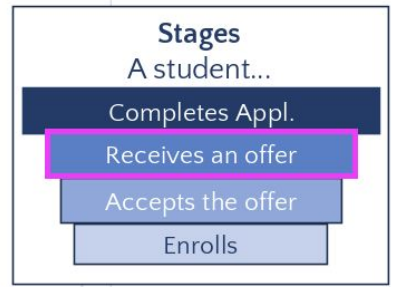
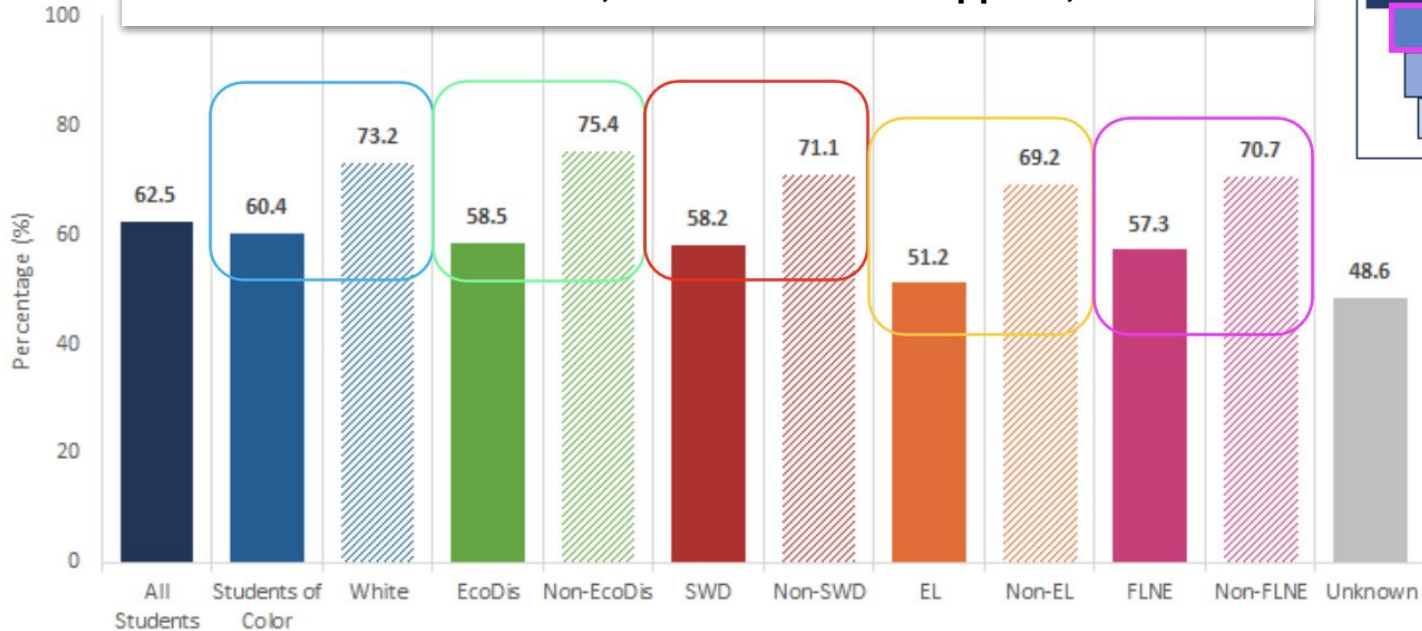
No other public schools in the state, except Boston's exam schools, have such ranking systems for students.

# Vocational Education Justice Coalition Press Conference/3.18.21

## WAITLIST: STATEWIDE OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS

### 'Opportunity Gap'

#### Offers of Admission Made, out of those who Applied, Grade 9



*Does NOT include those who were discouraged from applying*

# NEXT STEPS

## **PROPOSED CHANGE - APRIL 2021**

DESE Education Commissioner Jeff Riley will bring a Admissions Policy regulatory change to the State Board of Education.

## **3 MONTH PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

## **STATE BOARD WILL VOTE ON A NEW POLICY**

**Will the Baker Administration make major changes needed  
OR continue discrimination and lack of equal opportunity?**

# Analysis of DESE data shows disparities for almost ALL vocational schools:

**Comparison points for Students of Color, ELL, Eco-Disadvantaged, Special Needs**

**vs. students not in those groupings**

**REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOLS (RVT, 24 schools)**

**In 89 of 91 comparison points, or 98%, a greater percent of more privileged students were offered seats than their peers from historically marginalized groups.**

## **Analysis of DESE data shows disparities for almost ALL vocational schools - continued:**

**In 71 or 78% of comparison points,...was more than five percentage points less than their more privileged peers.**

**In 56 or 62% of comparison points,...more than 10 percentage points less than their more privileged peers.**

**In 28 or 31% of comparison points,...more than 20 percentage points less than their more privileged peers.**



## **Analysis of DESE data shows disparities for almost ALL vocational schools - continued:**

**In 19 of the 24 vocational schools or 79% had at least one comparison point in which the percent of students from historically marginalized groups were offered seats at a rate that was more than 20 percentage points lower than their more privileged peers.**

# NEW ADMISSIONS POLICY

"by allowing individual schools and programs to set policies that respond to the needs of their sending communities and **are consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations to promote equitable access for all students, while retaining the Department's role to monitor compliance and intervene when necessary.**

**" that vocational schools and programs using selective criteria shall not use criteria that have the effect of disproportionately excluding persons in protected classes** unless they can demonstrate that (1) the criteria have been validated as essential to participation and (2) alternative equally valid criteria that do not have such a disproportionate adverse effect are unavailable."

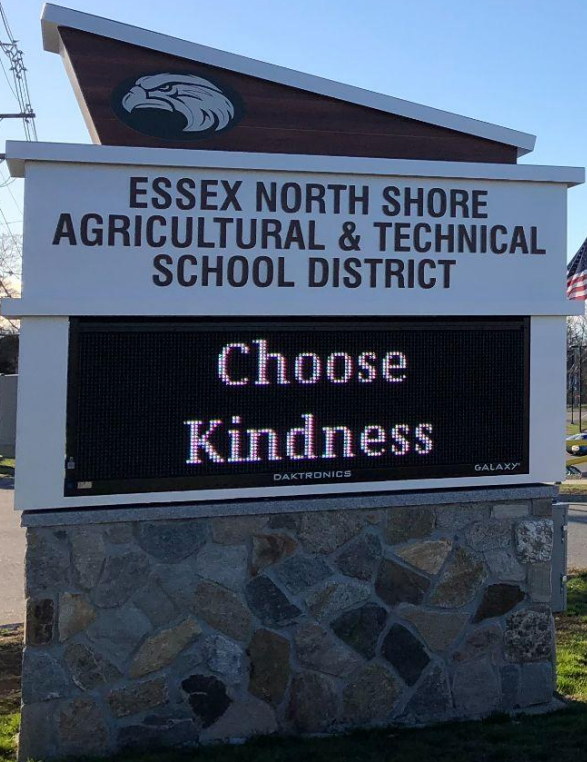
# **NEW** ADMISSIONS POLICY - continued

This **SHOULD** lead to significant numbers of more of these students being admitted:

--Students of Color,--English Language Learners--Special Needs students--Economically Disadvantaged students

## **HOWEVER,**

This **WILL** require on-going pro-active review by DESE and action against any newly submitted Admissions Policy IF it still tries to keep aspects of the current discriminatory ranking system.



ESSEX NORTH SHORE  
AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

The sign is a large, multi-tiered structure. The top tier is a dark brown triangle with a white eagle head logo. The middle tier is a white rectangular panel with the school district name in black, bold, sans-serif font. Below this is a black LED display showing the phrase 'Choose Kindness' in white, pixelated text. The bottom tier is a base made of stacked, irregular grey stones. The sign is situated on a grassy area next to a paved road. In the background, there is a large, modern brick school building with many windows, a flagpole with the American flag, and a clear blue sky.

Choose  
Kindness

DAKTRONICS

GALAXY

TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES ACADEMY