

There are many different high schools in Chicago. They all have the same core curriculum in which everyone learns English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. In addition to academics, every student does service learning, which means that each student helps the school and community with projects. Some students tutor after school, others work in soup kitchens, helping people get food. Some students work to improve the environment. They use science to improve the natural environment by planting native species. When students do service learning, they feel better about themselves and learn more skills.

Some high schools are specialized, students choose to go there because they want a certain career or want to study a specific kind of subject. You can go to a high school that specializes in arts, which is a new Chicago high school. To get into that school, you need to audition. You might want to be an actor, and if so then would go to the audition and show how well you act. You might want to be an artist, and if so would bring a portfolio of your art to your audition.

There are other schools that do not require auditions. They do require that you get high grades. Those special admission schools are called magnet schools. Students are admitted to a magnet school if they have good grades and do well on tests and get selected based on an application process.

Many high schools have special programs even if they are not magnet schools. For example, you can specialize in journalism at some high schools. Those are regular high schools that have special programs in journalism. You can find other programs at high schools. You can take culinary arts at some schools. One student who went to Richards High School in Chicago got a \$10,000 scholarship to go to culinary college. He achieved his success at Richards High School where he took culinary arts classes as well as the core curriculum. He is on his way to a great career.

You can go to military high schools in Chicago, schools that emphasize the army, navy, air force, or marines. They have the standard high school curriculum. But they also have a lot of work on discipline and planning. Those are important to someone in the army. We even have a school that is an air force school. You take the usual subjects there. But you also learn about flying.

When you choose a high school, you should think about many things. Does it have the kinds of programs that I can use to help me prepare for a career? Does it have a good location? How can I get there? Whatever high school you go to, how much it helps you is up to you. Succeeding in high school requires determination, concentration, and a commitment to be the best that you can be.

*Directions: Choose the best answer for each question*

1. What would a student gain from service learning?

- a. English skills
- b. science facts
- c. self-esteem
- d. tutoring

2. What would a student do after graduating from the high school of the arts?

- a. teach
- b. go to college
- c. make a movie
- d. work in government

3. What will happen to the student who got the culinary scholarship?

- a. He will get a good job after college.
- b. He will work in an office.
- c. He will change careers.
- d. He will get more scholarships.

4. What will students who graduate from a military high school be able to do?

- a. fly a plane
- b. go into the army
- c. go to college
- d. work in business

5. *Write your own answer to this question.*

What high school should you go to if you want to be a doctor?

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**TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking**

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

**Answers:** *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	c	a	b	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

5. Any high school.