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Legislation Text

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, A 1980 school desegregation decree mandating that no Chicago selective enrollment school admit more than 35 percent white students was lifted in 2009; and

WHEREAS, A recent analysis shows that lifting that decree has produced predicted outcomes where white student enrollment in the top-four schools increased as minority and low income student enrollment decreased in the top-four schools; and

WHEREAS, that analysis shows that enrollment numbers for white students at the top-four most selective schools jumped in 2010, the first year white student enrollment was no longer limited by the decree; and

WHEREAS, in the top-four most selective schools, minority and low income enrollment dropped just as quickly as white student enrollment rose upon the lifting of the decree; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Public Schools reports that minority student enrollment has risen from 75.7 percent to 78.5 percent between 2008 and 2013; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of this City Council to ensure equal access to the best education the City of Chicago has to offer; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes in the benefit of racial and socioeconomic diversity in an education setting; and

WHEREAS, enrollment formulas already account for census tiers based on median household income, adult education levels and the percentages of single-parent households, owner-occupied homes and non-English speakers; and,

WHEREAS, the recent analysis indicates these formulas may not dictate enrollment standards in a way that optimizes racial and socioeconomic diversity; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Chicago' Committee on Education hold a hearing to review enrollment standards for Chicago Public Schools' most selective enrollment high schools.