

LEGACY PRESS

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The Legacy Press is the official student news magazine of Klein Collins High School. The Legacy Press' companion website is located at kclgacypress.com. Editorial, cartoon and advertising content are not endorsements of the staff, adviser or administration.

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DISTRICT MEMORANDUM

The district is required by law to release to anyone who makes a formal request through the Public Information Office students' names, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, awards received in school, and most recent and previous school attended. The district must comply with such requests unless the student's parents have objected in writing.

Automatic Injustice

Automatic acceptance unfair standard for admittance

Anna Ta | Print Editor-in-Chief

Numbers define a student's performance in high school. SAT scores, grades, GPA and rank define the four years in a student's life after high school. While a handful of numbers in no way produces a full picture of a student's academic career, Texas House Bill 588 uses only one number to determine automatic acceptance into public universities in Texas, leaving less room for students that fall short in that one category.

However, applicants are not numbers. They are students, and admission into college is important enough to factor in more than just one number.

According to the Austin American-Statesman, an Austin-based newspaper, in 2008, top 10 percent admits at the University of Texas at Austin made up 81 percent of the freshmen class. This is an absurdly high number of incoming freshmen that may or may not have deserved their space. Although ranking in the top 10 percent guarantees admission, it cannot guarantee higher-level thinking or the work ethic needed to succeed in college. It cannot speak to a student's life outside of school and their personal struggles the way essays do, nor can it reveal character the way extracurricular activities and leadership positions can.

Rank shows a student's GPA in comparison to their peers, an already shaky foundation for judgment of an application. Graduating class sizes vary wildly throughout the state. According to



photo by Kaitlyn Hutchins

Texas House Bill 588 was passed in 1997, making the top 10 percent of graduating classes automatically admitted into public universities in Texas.

this year's rank sheets, roughly 80 students will be considered top 10 percent for this year's graduating class, whereas a highly competitive magnet school with a class of 100 students only has space for 10 students in their top decile. Additionally, taking easier classes can boost one student's GPA over students who challenged themselves and suffered in GPA because of it. Whereas the latter took initiative and hard work over the easy way out, he or she might still have to fight an uphill battle to snag a coveted

acceptance letter, while the former slips in unimpeded.

While some students, probably about 10 percent of them, might argue that a spot in the top decile means that a student has already earned their spot, there are too many pieces of the puzzle for percentage or rank to be the only deciding factors.

Automatic acceptance is an injustice to students, regardless of whether or not they rank in the top 10 percent. Students are not numbers, and need to be treated as such.

Percentages needed to qualify for Automatic Admission

Texas A&M University



10%

Stephen F. Austin State University



10%

University of Texas at Austin



8%*

*UT - Austin is the only exception to the 10 percent rule.

Texas State University



10%

Texas Tech University



10%

Sam Houston State University



25%