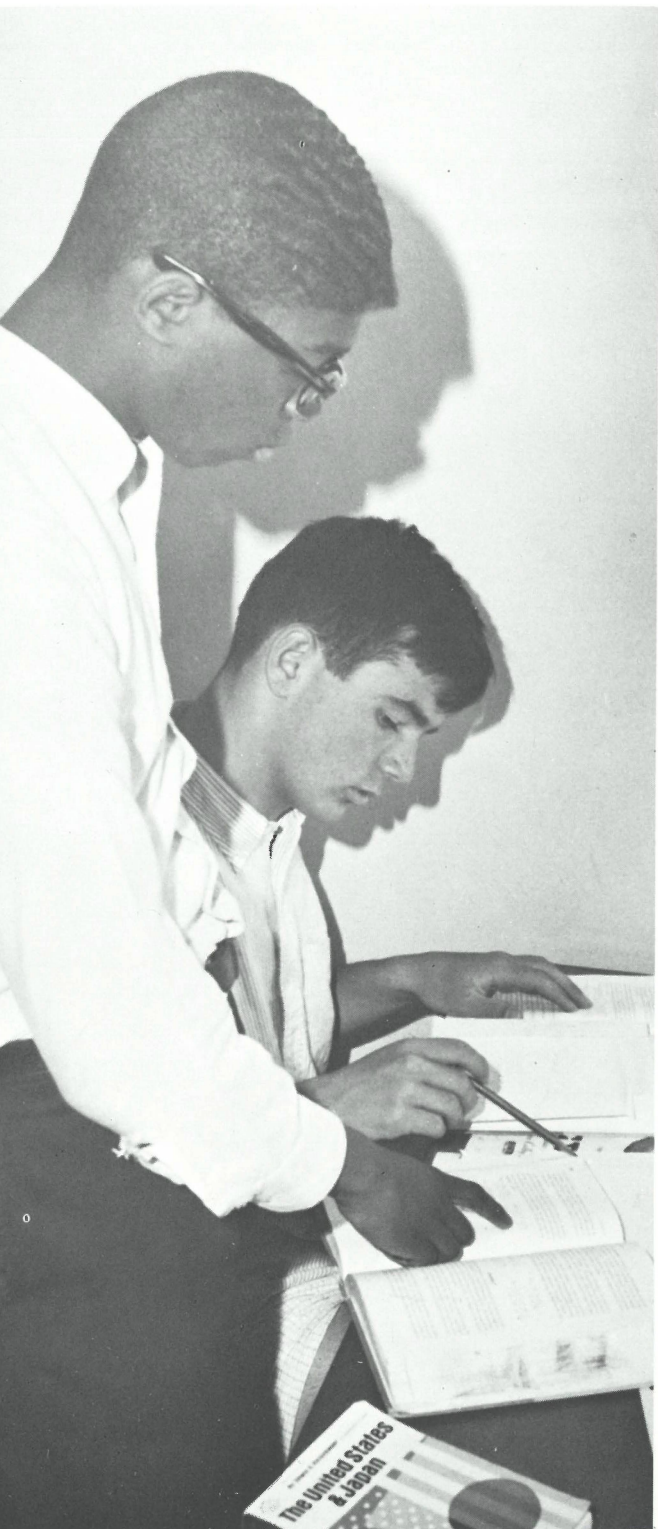


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The
Independent
Schools
Talent
Search
Program



PURPOSE

The Independent Schools Talent Search Program seeks out promising students from disadvantaged circumstances and places them in independent boarding schools under major scholarship grants for the final two to four years of their high school education. The aim of the program is to prepare these students for eventual entrance into college.

BACKGROUND

Negroes and other economically disadvantaged groups in the United States meet tremendous and frustrating obstacles in their advance towards a college education. Vast numbers of students of high ability from deprived circumstances will not realize their full potential if they are not exposed to greater challenge and opportunity.

Our colleges and universities have done much to provide scholarships and places in their entering classes for these young people. Although the admissions officers are eager to receive applications and to accept qualified candidates, they must first be sought out and identified. The difficulty is to find students whose secondary school preparation will enable them to successfully compete in college.

On February 23, 1963, representatives of twenty-one independent schools convened at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts to consider ways and means of helping promising students who, because of a lack of resources or cultural advantages, are unable to realize their apparent ability. It was felt that at least two years at an independent school could assist materially in preparing such students for successful college entrance. As a result of this meeting, the Independent Schools Talent Search Program was founded.

In the past three years, the Program has met with widespread enthusiasm and has been expanded. In the summer of 1964, Dartmouth College began an eight-week course, Project ABC (A Better Chance), to prepare some of the boys accepted through ISTSP for the difficult curriculum and for the different way of life at boarding school. In the summer of 1965, Dartmouth's program was complemented by a similar course for girls at Mount Holyoke College. In

the summer of 1966, new ABC programs, such as the ones at Dartmouth and Mt. Holyoke Colleges, will be established at two or three additional campuses, providing space for 300 summer scholars. The initial group of twenty schools has grown steadily and now numbers over seventy-five.

Most of the applicants to ISTSP have never considered study at an independent preparatory school and are not at all sure of going on to college after high school. It is the task of the Talent Search to discover able students from disadvantaged circumstances and to insure that their potential will not be lost by placing them in one of the schools which supports and finances the program. With a few years of such fine preparation, the door to college truly lies open.

It would be unfortunate to explain the member schools of ISTSP as one group. There is a healthy diversity of character, method and goal among them.

The opportunities available to the student at an independent school are almost unlimited. Substantial operating funds make possible a small pupil-

teacher ratio, give the student the opportunity of close attention from instructors, provide him with excellent class-

THE SCHOOLS

rooms, library and laboratory facilities, and place him with classmates who will stimulate and challenge his abilities. Most of the schools have a broad program of physical education and extracurricular activities, complementing his work in the classroom. This cultivation of academic ability, extracurricular interest and character is a fine preparation for college and for life.



MEMBER SCHOOLS

Abbott Academy
Andover, Massachusetts

Avon Old Farms
Avon, Connecticut

Baldwin School, The
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Barlow School, The
Amenia, New York

Big Horn School, The
Buffalo, Wyoming

Birch Wathen School
New York City, New York

Brooks School, The
North Andover, Massachusetts

Cate School
Carpenteria, California

Cheshire Academy
Cheshire, Connecticut

Choate School, The
Wallingford, Connecticut

Collegiate School, Inc.
New York, New York

Colorado Rocky Mountain School
Carbondale, Colorado

Commonwealth School
Boston, Massachusetts

Concord Academy
Concord, Massachusetts

Culver Military Academy
Culver, Indiana

Cushing Academy
Ashburnham, Massachusetts

Dana Hall School
Wellesley, Massachusetts

Darrow School
New Lebanon, New York

Deerfield Academy
Deerfield, Massachusetts

DeVeaux School
Niagara Falls, New York

Emma Willard School
Troy, New York

George School
Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Governor Dummer Academy
South Byfield, Massachusetts

Groton School
Groton, Massachusetts

Gunnery, The
Washington, Connecticut

Hackley School
Tarrytown, New York

Hall's School, Miss
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Hebron Academy
 Hebron, Maine
 Hill School, The
 Pottstown, Pennsylvania
 Hinckley School, The
 Hinckley, Maine
 Holderness School
 Plymouth, New Hampshire
 Hotchkiss School, The
 Lakeville, Connecticut
 House-in-the-Pines School
 Norton, Massachusetts
 Hun School of Princeton, The
 Princeton, New Jersey
 Kent School
 Kent, Connecticut
 Kimball Union Academy
 Meriden, New Hampshire
 Kiskiminetas Springs School
 Saltsburg, Pennsylvania
 Lawrenceville School, The
 Lawrenceville, New Jersey
 Lenox School
 Lenox, Massachusetts
 MacDuffie School for Girls
 Springfield, Massachusetts
 Masters School, Inc., The
 Dobbs Ferry, New York
 Mercersburg Academy
 Mercersburg, Pennsylvania
 Middlesex School
 Concord, Massachusetts
 Milton Academy
 Milton, Massachusetts
 Mountain School, The
 Vershire Center, Vermont
 Mount Hermon School
 Mount Hermon, Massachusetts
 New Hampton School, The
 New Hampton, New Hampshire
 Noble & Greenough School
 Dedham, Massachusetts
 Northfield School
 East Northfield, Massachusetts
 Oldfields School
 Glencoe, Maryland



Orme School
 Mayer, Arizona
 Peddie School, The
 Hightstown, New Jersey
 Phillips Academy
 Andover, Massachusetts
 Pomfret School
 Pomfret, Connecticut
 Putney School
 Putney, Vermont
 Riverdale Country School
 253rd Street & Fieldston Road
 Bronx, New York
 St. Andrews School
 Middletown, Delaware
 St. George's School
 Newport, Rhode Island
 St. Mark's School
 Southborough, Massachusetts
 St. Mary's-in-the-Mountains
 Littleton, New Hampshire
 St. Paul's School
 Concord, New Hampshire
 Shipley School, The
 Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania
 Solebury School
 New Hope, Pennsylvania
 Suffield Academy
 Suffield, Connecticut
 Taft School, The
 Watertown, Connecticut
 Tilton School
 Tilton, New Hampshire
 Vermont Academy
 Saxtons River, Vermont
 Verde Valley School
 Sedona, Arizona
 Walnut Hill School
 Natick, Massachusetts
 Waynflete School, The
 Portland, Maine
 Western Reserve Academy
 Hudson, Ohio
 Westover School
 Middlebury, Connecticut
 Wilbraham Academy
 Wilbraham, Massachusetts
 Windsor Mountain School
 Lenox, Massachusetts
 Woodstock Country School
 South Woodstock, Vermont
 Wooster School
 Danbury, Connecticut
 Worcester Academy
 Worcester, Massachusetts



Students who are well prepared are referred directly to the schools associated with ISTSP for admission. But it was recognized by the schools which founded

ASSOCIATED PROJECTS ABC

the Talent Search that many of the students who could gain admission to an independent school might, in spite of their ability and motivation, be significantly unprepared for the more difficult curriculum and for the way of life at

boarding school. It was evident that many of those accepted would need a period of intense preparation in the months before school began.

In 1965 Dartmouth and Mt. Holyoke Colleges each conducted eight-week summer programs for approximately seventy ISTSP students. These summer programs are known as Project ABC (A Better Chance). In the summer of 1966 new ABC summer programs will be established at three additional campuses. They attempt to better prepare the students for the transition to boarding school and to determine which students, if any, are not ready to proceed. To be eligible for these Projects, students must first gain contingent admission to one of the ISTSP preparatory schools through application to the Talent Search. Final admission depends upon satisfactory progress during the summer.

Entrance to all ABC Projects is secured through application on the same forms as are used for regular ISTSP candidates. Decisions are made at the same time for both groups.



PROJECTS **A**B**B**etter**C**hance

The eight-week Project ABC summer sessions are held on five separate campuses. One of the programs for boys is sponsored by Dartmouth College in the foothills of New Hampshire's White Mountains in the town of Hanover. One of the programs for girls is held at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts, in the Connecticut River Valley. In the summer of 1966 new ABC summer programs will be established at three additional campuses.

PROGRAM

The curriculum consists of intensive work in English and mathematics; how to read, write and speak more effectively, and how to master basic concepts in arithmetic and algebra. The program also stresses reading and study skills, writing examinations and use of the library. Students work with faculty and resident-tutors in small classes and tutorials. College athletic facilities, drama groups and field trips are provided for recreation.



STUDENTS

The ABC Project is designed for students who have three or four years of high school remaining; preference will be given to students now in Grades Eight and Nine. They will represent a variety of racial backgrounds. Each student must *want* to participate and must show the ability and desire to enter a preparatory school.

STAFF

Each ABC staff includes experienced public and private secondary school teachers and undergraduate resident tutors from the Associated College.

LIVING

Students live in College dormitories — in small groups, each group with a resident-tutor. Meals are served in the College dining halls.



COST

Each student pays \$15.00 toward the cost of the program. All other summer expenses are met by the participating Associated Colleges, with the help of various foundations and corporations.

ADMISSION

Boys and girls accepted for the five ABC Projects must first earn acceptance by a school associated with the Independent Schools Talent Search Program. Their actual acceptance into the schools the following fall is contingent upon successful completion of the summer program. Admission to Project ABC and to associated schools is gained through the facilities of ISTSP. There is only one application form.

Most of the independent schools associated with ISTSP do not offer instruction below grade nine.

On the other hand, they do not usually accept students for only the twelfth grade. Most applicants have several

REQUIREMENTS

years of high school left and are in the eighth or ninth grades.

All candidates are required to fill out the ISTSP application form in full, answering all questions. They are also expected to take the Secondary School Admission Tests, which are administered by the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, *as early as possible* in the winter preceding the desired admission in September.

Applicants must show evidence of substantial academic potential and of promising work done in class, as well as some interest in school or community activities. Most important, they must have a *strong desire* to meet the challenges and opportunities of study at an independent school.

The total cost of tuition, fees, room and board in the participating schools range from \$1800 to \$3300 annually, not including

expenditures for travel, clothes, laundry, recreation, and so on. The schools have agreed to give the students whom they accept

THE COST

scholarships for the amount beyond the parents' capacity for support. This varies from almost no aid to full scholarships. On the Parents' Report form of the application, the candidate's family is asked to state how much financial support of the candidate is *reasonably possible*. It is assumed that most families will want to contribute something, and such an offer is a concrete expression of their desire to place him in an independent school. Awards of scholarships are based principally on *need*.



The application for ISTSP has 5 parts: the Student's Statement, the Parents' Report, the School Record and the two letters of recommendation.

THE ISTSP APPLICATION

One letter of recommendation should be written by the student's principal, teacher or guidance counselor and the second by a member of the community who knows the student well.

In addition, each applicant is expected to take the Secondary Schools Admissions Tests (SSAT). The December test date is preferred, and the applicant should note that it is necessary to apply in November to take the test in December. If the applicant is unable to take the test in December, he should apply in January for the February test. Watch the deadline dates carefully. The card indicating the date when the candidate will take the SSAT should be returned to the ISTSP office with the other application forms. Additional information regarding the test is included with the application forms.

Once an applicant's forms have been received by ISTSP, a selection is made of suitable schools to consider his application. Parents are cautioned that the selection of schools for each successful candidate is made by the ISTSP admissions committee, and that *they are not to apply directly to one of the associated schools*. ISTSP is acting in the schools' behalf.

It is also important to note that there is no separate application for Project ABC. Recommendations for the ABC summer session are also made at the time of consideration of the regular application.

The period for application is from April 1 to January 1 of the year preceding the fall of desired admission. Decisions are, for the most part, completed in early April.

(over)



A SUGGESTED CALENDAR FOR APPLICATION

April 1 through September

Secure application forms, fill them out completely, and return them to the ISTSP office. Make sure that the school returns their report within a reasonable period of time.

September through November

Before the November deadline date, apply for admission on the form included with your application to one of the test centers of the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey for the Secondary School Admission Tests. Fill in the test center number and the date of the examination on the card which is also included with your application and return it to ISTSP.

December

Take the Secondary School Admission Tests at the appointed place and make sure that your test scores are reported to ISTSP by checking the box on the form given you at the time of the test. It is very important to take the test in December for consideration in the admissions process.

January and February

If you did not take the Secondary Schools Admissions Tests in December, apply for admission to the February test by the January deadline date and take the test in February.

March and April

ISTSP will consider applications and candidates will be notified of decisions after April 1.

For the ISTSP Application Forms and further information about the Secondary School Admission Tests, please write to:

*Mr. James E. Simmons, Director
Independent Schools Talent Search Program
Post Office Box 1051
Hanover, New Hampshire 03755*



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