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## School Board plans to revamp Lindblom College Prep

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BY [ROSALIND ROSSI](#) Education Reporter

Lindblom College Prep, which drew acceptances from only 12 qualified students this year, will share its newly renovated building with a new elite school in the fall and then be closed entirely under a Chicago Public Schools plan to be approved this week.

Alan Mather, assistant principal of Northside College Prep, is expected to be tapped as principal of the new Robert Lindblom Math & Science Academy High School, at 6130 S. Wolcott, officials said Monday.

The new developments, up for a Chicago Board of Education vote Wednesday, are the School Board's latest attempt to bring Lindblom in Engelwood up to par with its North Side college prep brethren.

Students are selected for college preps based on tests and grades, but Lindblom has had the lowest -- or nearly lowest -- acceptance threshold of the system's eight college preps for some time, said David Pickens, an assistant to schools CEO Arne Duncan.

This year, Pickens said, 124 qualified students listed Lindblom as one of their four possible college prep choices, and of them, only 12 agreed to attend this fall. Some prospective applicants may have been discouraged by Lindblom's uncertain future and its temporary location during renovations.

The Lindblom building will reopen this fall with \$25 million in upgrades, about 115 Lindblom College Prep seniors, and about 200 Lindblom Math & Science Academy freshmen, officials said.

In addition, the application process is being reopened exclusively for the new Lindblom, Pickens said.

Hundreds of qualified students are rejected every year from college preps and with Mather's leadership, the school should be able to attract 200 qualified ones, he said.

Once applicants hear about Mather's background at Northside and the strong math and science curriculum at the school, Pickens said, "those [applicant] numbers will skyrocket."

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