



## Magnet School Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** Are magnet schools the same as charter schools?

**A:** No. Charter schools operate independently and outside county school districts.

**Q:** How can I attend a magnet school?

**A:** You may apply to magnet schools during the application period, Oct. 16-Jan. 25 at magnet.[wcpss.net/apply](http://wcpss.net/apply).

**Q:** What do I need to do if my child is selected for a magnet school or year-round school?

**A:** You don't have to do anything else. Students who are selected are automatically assigned to that school. Students selected for a school other than their first choice are assigned to that school AND placed in an applicant pool (non-numeric waitlist) for their first choice.

**Q:** Is bus transportation available to magnet or year-round students?

**A:** Yes, in most cases, but the type of service may vary depending on your school choice and home address. To check transportation options, visit [wcpss.net/eligible](http://wcpss.net/eligible)

**Q:** If I get into a magnet elementary school, where will my child attend middle school?

**A:** Magnet elementary students have priority when applying to a magnet middle school. Magnet middle school students have priority when applying to a magnet high school. They have highest priority for the middle/high school in their program pathway school but also have priority to any other magnet middle program. See pathways at [wcpss.net/pathways](http://wcpss.net/pathways)

**Q:** What is a pathway?

**A:** Pathways allow students to continue with their chosen magnet theme from kindergarten through senior year of high school, if they choose. Students get a high priority for placement when continuing to a magnet middle or magnet high school in their pathway.

The pathways are: Arts Plus • STEM • Gifted & Talented • International Baccalaureate • Language Immersion/Global Studies. View the pathway chart at [wcpss.net/pathways](http://wcpss.net/pathways).

**Q:** How do I register my kindergartner in WCPSS?

**A:** Rising kindergartners or students new to Wake County register at the base school – October 16, 2023 Begin at [wcpss.net/enroll](http://wcpss.net/enroll). Once you complete the enrollment process and get a student identification number, you may apply for a magnet, early college, or year-round school.

**Q:** To how many magnet and year-round schools may I apply?

**A:** You may apply to 1-5 magnet programs/schools and 1-2 year round schools (if available for your address) ranking them first choice, second choice...Use [www.wcpss.net/eligible](http://www.wcpss.net/eligible) to identify eligible magnet schools based on your address.

**Q:** Is there a waitlist?

**A:** Any student NOT selected for their first choice school is placed in an applicant pool (non-numeric waitlist) even if you are selected for another school to which you applied. An applicant could be in several applicant pools (early college, magnet/year-round). Selection to another school does NOT impact place in the applicant pool

**Q:** Are siblings processed together?

**A:** If all students in a residence (siblings) cannot be selected for the same grade level (e.g. elementary), then none are selected.

**Q:** Can I decline my magnet or year-round acceptance?

**A:** No, there is no decline option. To request a different school or the base school, you must submit a transfer request at [wcpss.net/apply](http://wcpss.net/apply). Request for base is guaranteed if submitted during the initial transfer period in early March.

**Q:** How can I return to base after applying to a magnet or year-round school?

**A:** You may submit a request to attend a different school or return to base, during the transfer period in early March at [wcpss.net/apply](http://wcpss.net/apply)

**Q:** Are there any entrance requirements for acceptance to a magnet school?

**A:** There are no test or performance requirements to apply to a magnet program except for the AIG Basics program at the middle school level. Applicants to the AIG Basics program at the middle school level must have WCPSS AIG identification.

**Q:** Do I have to apply every year to keep my magnet seat?

**A:** No, applicants selected for a magnet school may remain assigned to that school until the final grade as long as they reside in Wake County. Magnet students **MUST** submit an application to continue in a magnet school at the next grade level and have high priority in selection to the program pathway school at the next level.

**Q:** From elementary to middle and from middle to high school, do magnet students get any priority in the selection process?

**A:** Yes, magnet students have high priority in the selection process.