



The Cherokee County School District (CCSD) is recognized as one of the top school districts in Georgia; its students, schools and staff routinely receive state and national recognition for programs and performance. While the majority of students (more than 90%) attend a neighborhood school, there are many opportunities for school choice in Cherokee County.

School Reassignment within CCSD

Parents in Cherokee County can apply for school reassignment between February 1 and March 1 each year. Information is posted on the CCSD website February 1 of each year, with all necessary documents and the list of schools with space available (18 are open for the 2024-25 school year) to accommodate additional students. Transportation is not provided for students who receive a reassignment. Parents should be aware that high school students may lose eligibility under Georgia High School Association rules for Varsity-level athletics under this type of transfer.

Cherokee Academies

CCSD currently operates five STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Academies, one Fine Arts Academy and one STEAM (STEM + Arts) Academy. Students at these schools have a more integrated curriculum focused on STEM or Fine Arts, or both; openings for reassignment at a STEM, STEAM or Fine Arts Academy vary annually. Parents will follow the same reassignment procedures for the Academies as noted above, with the same forms and same window of February 1–March 1. Academy assignments are subject to space availability. Please check the Open Schools list for reassignments.

OPEN FOR 2024-25 REASSIGNMENT REQUESTS

ELEMENTARY

- Arnold Mill ES
- Ball Ground ES STEM Academy
- Bascomb ES
- Boston ES
- Hasty ES Fine Arts Academy
- Holly Springs ES STEM Academy
- Indian Knoll ES
- Johnston ES
- Knox ES STEM Academy
- Macedonia ES
- Mountain Road ES
- Oak Grove ES STEAM Academy
- Sixes ES

MIDDLE

- Freedom MS
- Mill Creek MS
- Woodstock MS

HIGH

- River Ridge HS
- Sequoyah HS

For additional information, please see the Reassignment documents located on the CCSD website at <https://www.cherokeek12.net/forms-updates>

Almost 2,200 CCSD students are utilizing a school reassignment choice for 2023-24.



i-Grad

Virtual Academy

CCSD's i-Grad Virtual Academy launched in 2021 for Grades 9-12. Enrollment in i-Grad Virtual Academy is application based, and students are selected based on their ability to succeed in digital learning.

i-Grad students mostly work remotely, but are expected to attend some in-person assessments and learning activities. Families must provide their own transportation for these occasions. The in-person site is the i-Grad campus, which is part of the ACTIVE Academies campus in Canton.

The curriculum is a blend of Edgenuity lessons and teacher-developed lessons delivered through Canvas and Teams. Schedules will include core academics as well as non-core subjects. Students will need to have access at home to the internet and a laptop computer with camera and microphone.

Additional information, including daily learning expectations and applications, which require teacher recommendations, can be found online at <https://igrad.cherokeek12.net/application-and-enrollment>.

The application period for 2024-25 opens March 11. Learn more about i-Grad at <https://igrad.cherokeek12.net/about>.



Additional High School Options

While the majority of high school students complete diploma requirements in a traditional setting, CCSD offers multiple avenues and settings to earn credit toward graduation and/or industry certifications:

- **C3: Cherokee College & Career Academy**— CCSD launched Cherokee College & Career Academy (C3) in 2022, offering high school students the opportunity to participate in unique Career Pathway

programs not offered on their school's campus. The program, which is housed at the ACTIVE Academies campus, currently offers classes in cybersecurity and aviation (unmanned aircraft systems and flight operations, with opportunities for students to earn FAA certification in small unmanned aircraft systems and pilot ground operations). Students travel to C3 for morning or afternoon career classes and spend the remainder of the day at their school's campus attending core classes. Find more information online at <https://igrad.cherokeek12.net/c3-academy>



- **ACE Academy**— an alternative learning environment for middle and high school students to work at their own pace. ACE operates during regular school hours; transportation is provided.
- **Dual Enrollment**— Qualified high school students can earn high school and college credit simultaneously on a college campus through the Dual Enrollment program. Chattahoochee Technical College, Kennesaw State University and Reinhardt University are among the participating colleges. Find out more [here](#). CCSD deadline for fall semester is March 29, 2024.
- **Mountain Ed Charter High School**— CCSD partners with Mountain Education Charter High School to offer an evening high school program, which is housed on the Etowah High School campus. Mountain Ed offers students nightly meals, mentors and other supports to help them graduate as soon as possible. For information, [please visit the school website](#).



Consult your child's school counseling office for more information on any of these options.

School Choice: What Factors Should Parents Consider?

As parents know, every child is different. What works for one student may not work for another, even within one family.

Parents consider many factors when making a decision about school placement for their child. The priority for one child may be challenging academics; for another child, the learning environment may take precedence.

Some parents seek faith-based instruction in a private school setting. Some seek a specific emphasis within the curriculum to focus on their child's talents or interests. Transportation to and from home may be an essential consideration for some children, due to work and family schedules

or extra-curricular activities. Some parents seek a more diverse student body, reflective of the community where they live, realizing that their children must learn to function in a global society with a range of cultures and backgrounds.

No matter what a parent's decision in regard to school choice, the Cherokee County School District respects that parents make the ultimate decision for their child.

If school choice leads a family to consider options outside of CCSD, parents are welcome to re-enroll their child in the Cherokee County School District at any time.

Other Options

- **Home School:** the State Department of Education handles Home School enrollment and related paperwork. For information, please see the [GADOE website](#). About 2,480 Cherokee County students are registered as home schooled for 2023-24.
- **Private School:** there are a number of private schools located in and near Cherokee County. An estimated 2,600 Cherokee County students attend a private school, according to state data.
- **Charter School:** Cherokee Charter Academy is a K-8 charter school of 610 students enrolling from four counties; Cherokee Charter Academy was approved by the Georgia Charter School Commission and is not affiliated with or governed by CCSD. There are also several statewide and virtual charter schools available to Cherokee families

Do Private Schools Perform Better?

Private schools are not subject to transparency or open records requirements; so, it is up to the individual school whether it will release test results or other information. As a consumer, it is up to you to ask for comparative data and then use that information to determine if the school is a good fit for your child. Private schools do not have to accept all children who apply, nor do they have to honor educational plans such as IEPs or 504s.

How Do Cherokee County Schools Perform?

Cherokee County Schools enroll more than 41,700 students and consistently perform above State and National averages on all assessments. *Note: CCSD assessment information is posted on the [CCSD website](#) for the public to review and is updated throughout the year.*

- **2023 four-year graduation rate: 92%**
- **2023 HOPE eligible graduates: 61%**
- **2023 Advanced Placement (AP) pass rate: 78%**
- **CCSD graduates requiring remedial classes at University System of Georgia schools: 3%**

CCSD's district average SAT and ACT scores routinely rank it within the Top 10% of school districts in GA

For additional information on the performance of CCSD schools, please see our [2023 Annual Report](#).

Do Charter Schools Perform Better?

Charter schools were conceived as incubators of innovation, envisioned as small schools where teachers were freed from bureaucratic restraints and empowered to utilize various teaching methods and techniques to increase student achievement. The best practices gleaned from charter schools were then intended to be introduced to traditional public schools so all students could benefit.

While the scope and purpose of charter schools has shifted now to being primarily a vehicle of school choice and/or privatization, the State still requires that charter schools be held accountable for increasing academic achievement. Results for charter schools both in Georgia and across the Nation have been mixed in this regard, with little concrete evidence that students are consistently performing better in charter schools.

Accountability

The most recent Academic Accountability Update for State-authorized charter schools can be found [here](#) on the State Charter School Commission website. State Charter Schools are considered “meeting” academic standards if they come within 3% of the scores posted by traditional public schools.

Cherokee Charter Academy has not met academic performance standards since 2014 and was placed on probation in October of 2023 by the Commission. The school’s charter is currently up for renewal and the Commission will make a decision as to its standing in late February, which will determine whether the school can continue to operate under the Commission.

CCRPI	2023 Content Mastery Score
The State did not issue an overall CCRPI score for 2023. The scores here are for Content Mastery, which measures whether students have mastered material for that grade level and are prepared for next concepts.	
CCSD ELEMENTARY AVERAGE	77.1
GA ELEMENTARY AVERAGE	64.7
CHEROKEE CHARTER ELEM	62.4
CCSD MIDDLE SCHOOL AVERAGE	69.4
GA MIDDLE SCHOOL AVERAGE	60.9
CHEROKEE CHARTER MIDDLE	58.9

More information about CCRPI scores and measures can be found [here](#) on the Georgia Department of Education website.

Funding Equality

State charter schools do not receive local funds, but they do receive a double allotment of state funds that in many cases exceeds what their revenue from local property taxes would be. State data charts for revenues and expenditures can be found on the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement website. Some of that data is captured in the chart below.

FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY			
	FY2023 Expenditure Per Student	General Admin Expenditure Per Student	Instructional Expenditure Per Student
CCSD	\$11,201	\$171	\$7,600
Cherokee Charter	\$12,209	\$378	\$6,113
Georgia Average	\$11,417	\$293	\$7,432

Teacher Experience

	CCSD	CHEROKEE CHARTER	GEORGIA AVG
Average Years of Experience	14	8	14
Average Teacher Salary FY 2023	\$68,337	\$49,500	\$64,505

Source: GOSA Public Schools Report Card

Source: GOSA Revenue & Expenditure Data

CCSD Public Schools Offer:

- ◇ Award-winning, high-achieving schools that consistently win region, state and national recognition and awards
- ◇ Cognia accreditation, and recognition as a District of Distinction— one of 38 in the world in 2022
- ◇ Cognia STEM accreditation for all seven middle schools, one high school and three elementary schools
- ◇ School Choice within the District; more than 2,100 students take advantage of school reassignment annually
- ◇ Elementary STEM, STEAM and Fine Arts Academies
- ◇ Professionally staffed and trained School Nurses
- ◇ Counselors at every school
- ◇ Certified School Police Department with 29 officers
- ◇ High school credit courses for advanced 8th graders, along with middle school foreign language
- ◇ Middle school band and chorus, plus intramural sports, basketball teams and cheer programs
- ◇ Affordable lunches and After School programs
- ◇ Nationally recognized classroom technology integration and teacher training
- ◇ Kindergarten paraprofessionals
- ◇ School-based Pre-K at select sites
- ◇ Character Education/CCSD Cares at all grade levels
- ◇ Full range of high school athletics, fine arts and academic competition teams/programs
- ◇ 30 AP courses offered; 78% of CCSD students achieved AP scores in 2023 to qualify for college credit
- ◇ AP STEM and STEM Achievement high schools
- ◇ Two state-certified STEM schools and one state-certified STEAM school
- ◇ Evening and online high school credit options
- ◇ Elected School Board members for fiscal/policy transparency, accountability and local control; accessible open meetings of the Board
- ◇ School Councils and PTAs at every school for parent input and participation
- ◇ Comprehensive website for parents and community, including online access to School Board agenda materials, financial reports, budget documents & test scores
- ◇ BYLD initiative allowing students to bring and use their own technology in class
- ◇ Access to 21st century technology in every CCSD school. . . including desktops, tablets, laptops and mobile devices, student response devices, interactive whiteboards, high speed and filtered internet access, research and curricular digital resources
- ◇ Opportunities for students to explore technology-enriched careers and/or fields of study including video broadcast, robotics, engineering, 3-D modeling, architecture and design, computer programming, as well as app and game development
- ◇ Teachers who have had and continue to have extensive and ongoing professional development experiences and opportunities that enrich student learning, innovation and creativity
- ◇ Canvas family portal for online access to student grades and assignments, as well as Digital Learning
- ◇ Student Portal for online access, e-mail accounts, free software programs and Cloud storage
- ◇ Online payment programs to check lunch account balances, apply funds and monitor purchases
- ◇ Active, open social media outlets for news and information, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- ◇ General Administration costs that rank among the lowest in Georgia
- ◇ High school foreign language options include French, German, Spanish and Latin. Additional 5th-year offerings include Honors/AP French, Spanish and Latin. American Sign Language is an additional option in some schools.
- ◇ Average classroom teaching experience: 14 years; 73% of CCSD teachers have earned a master's, specialist or doctoral degree; annual teacher turnover of less than 10%.
- ◇ STEM elective for eighth-graders in robotics and design; STEM partnership with Georgia Institute of Technology
- ◇ Award-winning Farm to School program with fresh fruits and vegetables on school menus daily.