

SCHOOL CHOICE GUIDE

2026-2027

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@ccpsmagnet

Welcome to School Choice

Clayton County Public Schools | 2026-2027 Enrollment Guide

Our Vision

To prepare ALL graduates to have the skills to pursue and accomplish college, post-secondary training, and/or career opportunities in order to live and compete successfully in a global society

Our Mission

To empower scholars to achieve academic, professional, and personal goals by providing equitable access and experiences that build skills in literacy, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration

Portrait of a Graduate

- **Think critically** - Read proficiently and apply knowledge to solve real-world problems
- **Communicate effectively** - Speak and write with clarity and confidence
- **Act with character** - Be engaged, noble, and well-rounded citizens
- **Show self-mastery** - Demonstrate self-awareness, self-management, and self-confidence
- **Leverage Technology** - Use digital tools creatively and efficiently
- **Lead with purpose** - Collaborate and contribute to teams and communities
- **Pursue passions** - Turn dreams into accomplishments
- **Engage globally** - Demonstrate cultural awareness and adaptability in a changing world

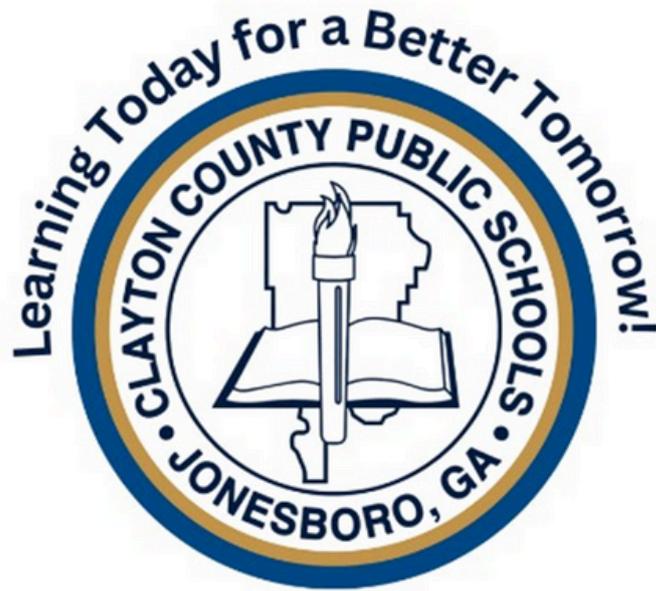
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Early Learning "THE FOUNDATION"

Note: Information and programs listed are as of date printed. Changes may have occurred. Please visit www.clayton.k12.ga.us/departments/school_choice for the most up-to-date program information.

SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS

Whether your student is just starting Pre-K or prepping for college, Clayton County has options to help them grow, lead, and thrive.

From Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade, families can explore options that include specialized academic tracks, career and technical education pathways, virtual learning, and transfer opportunities. These programs are designed to promote academic excellence, expand access, and support college and career readiness for all students. Each school choice program has its own application process and eligibility criteria based on the program's focus and student needs.



Magnet Programs

Admission based on specific eligibility criteria. Available for grades K-10 only



Pre-Kindergarten

Enrollment is determined by age eligibility and space availability



Virtual Learning Program

Online learning opportunities designed to provide students with flexible, self-paced instruction



Student Transfers

Provides options for families seeking enrollment at a school outside their zoned attendance area



Charter Schools

Tuition-free public schools that operate with greater flexibility in exchange for increased accountability

MAGNET PROGRAMS

Clayton County Public Schools is a district member of Magnet Schools of America. Clayton County Public Schools is proud to adopt: 1) theme-based curriculum and instruction, and 2) school diversity. We take great pride in our programs and we continue to promote racial and socioeconomic diversity by offering specialized programs that attract students from different neighborhoods and backgrounds.

Sibling preference is not granted for any magnet program.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Kay R. Pace School of the Arts
- Kilpatrick Spanish Dual Language
- M.L. King Elementary School (Botany & Zoology)
- Unidos Dual Language School (Spanish)
- West Clayton Elementary School (STEAM)

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Elite Scholars Academy
- M.D. Roberts Middle School of the Arts
- Morrow Middle School Spanish Dual Language
- North Clayton Middle School STEM
- Rex Mill Middle School STEM

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Elite Scholars Academy
- Charles R. Drew Medical Sciences and Public Safety
- Jonesboro High School Political Leadership
- M.E. Stilwell School of the Arts
- Morrow High School STEM
- North Clayton High School Aviation

Magnet programs accept students in grades K through 10 throughout Clayton County and surrounding areas. All interested students must apply.

MAGNET PROGRAMS

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Students do more than study the arts - they build confidence, creativity, and communication skills that carry into every part of life.

Kay R. Pace School of the Arts
Grades K-5

M.D. Roberts Middle School of
the Arts
Grades 6-8

M.E. Stilwell School of the Arts
Grades 9-10

ADMISSIONS

- Application required for all grades
- For grades 2-10, students must meet audition requirements
- Must meet academic requirements for grades 6-10 (Visit the Magnet Programs [website](#) for detailed information)
- Must meet behavior requirements for all grades

Audition General Information:

- Students must audition in the specific area listed on the application. Scores will not count if the area does not match.
- Parents must select an audition date during the application process. Approved dates will be confirmed by email.
- Families will receive notification with audition details after application approval.
- Higher scores are expected for older grade levels. Contact individual schools for requirements.
- If a student is ill, a new audition may be scheduled with a doctor's note submitted within 3 school days of the original date.
- Families may request an appeal within 5 school days of the audition for technical issues or process concerns (note: academic criteria cannot be appealed).
- All appeals must be submitted to magnetprograms@clayton.k12.ga.us.

STEM & STEAM

Our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and STEAM (Arts added) programs emphasize inquiry-based learning, hands-on activities, design thinking, and collaboration to develop problem-solving, research, and innovation skills for future careers in science, technology and beyond.

PROGRAMS

- | | |
|--|-------------|
|  M.L. King Elementary School
• Botany & Zoology | STEM (K-5) |
|  West Clayton Elementary School | STEAM (K-5) |
|  Rex Mill Middle School | STEM (6-8) |
|  North Clayton Middle School | STEM (6-8) |
|  Charles R. Drew High School
• Medical Sciences | STEM (9-12) |
|  Morrow High School
• Aeronautical Sciences
• Computer Science
• Engineering
• Pharmacy | STEM (9-12) |
|  North Clayton High School
• Aviation | STEM (9-12) |

ADMISSIONS

- All students (grades K-10) must complete the online application.
- Two online Recommendations
- Academic Requirements - Visit the Magnet Programs [website](#) for detailed information

SPANISH DUAL LANGUAGE



Spanish Dual Language programs immerse students in both English and Spanish instruction. Participants become bilingual and biliterate while gaining cross-cultural competencies and learning grade-level content in both languages

SCHOOLS

- Unidos Dual Language School (PreK-5)
- Kilpatrick Elementary School (K-5)
- Morrow Middle School (6-8)

ELIGIBILITY

- **Kindergarten through 1st Grade** - Completed application
- **2nd through 5th Grade**
 1. Completed application
 2. Acceptable score on the language proficiency test

*All Kilpatrick and Unidos Dual Language School students **MUST** apply to Morrow Middle School Spanish Dual Language Program.

*Morrow Middle School does not feed into Morrow High School's magnet program.

Assessment General Information:

- Parents must select a language proficiency assessment date during the application process. Approved dates will be confirmed by email.
- Families will receive notification with the language proficiency assessment details after application approval.
- If a student is ill, a new date may be scheduled with a doctor's note submitted within 3 school days of the original date.

MAGNET PROGRAMS

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP & PUBLIC SAFETY

Schools with Leadership and Public Safety themes provide students with a specialized curriculum designed to develop valuable skills and prepare them for leadership roles in various fields, including political advocacy, public administration and law enforcement.

Schools Offering Leadership & Public Safety Magnet Programs

Charles R. Drew High School

Public Safety

Jonesboro High School

Political Leadership

Admissions

- All students must complete the online application.
- Two online Recommendations
- Minimum grades and high school credit courses (Visit the Magnet Programs [website](#) for detailed information)

MAGNET PROGRAMS

EARLY COLLEGE

Clayton County Public Schools' Early College magnet program is offered through Elite Scholars Academy. This program provides students with opportunities to earn college credits while still in high school through rigorous academic pathways that prepare them for post-secondary education.

Schools Offering Early College

Elite Scholars Academy (Grades 6-8)

Cambridge Assessment International

All Honors Curriculum

Elite Scholars Academy (Grades 9-12)

Cambridge Assessment International

Advanced Placement

Dual Enrollment

NOTE: Elite Scholars Academy serves grades 6-12. All students in 8th grade will rollover to 9th grade.

Admissions

- All students must complete the online application.
- Two online Recommendations
- Minimum grades and high school credit courses (Visit the Magnet Programs [website](#) for detailed information)

MAGNET SCHOOLS CRITERIA

Early College

Elite Scholars Academy (Grades 6-8)

- All students are required to score proficient or distinguished on the Georgia Milestones or equivalent.

Elite Scholars Academy (Grades 9-12)

9th Grade Applicants (First Priority)

- 3.0 GPA (Middle School Cumulative)
- Foreign Language I* Completion
- Algebra I* Completion
- Physical Science Honors* or Biology*

9th Grade Applicants (Second Priority)

- 3.0 GPA (Middle School Cumulative)
- High School Science Completion
- High School Algebra I Completion
- Any additional high school credit course

10th Grade Applicants (Current 9th Grade)

- 3.0 GPA
- Algebra I* and Geometry*
- Physical Science* and Biology*
- 2 Years of Foreign Language*
- Any High School Social Studies
- 9th Grade Literature

ALL APPLICANTS

- Completed online application
- Two **online** recommendations. All emailed recommendations will be discarded.
- Discipline infractions will impact final acceptance into the program.

Political Leadership & Public Safety

Charles R. Drew High School (Public Safety)

9th Grade Students

- Completed online application

Jonesboro High School (Political Leadership)

9th Grade Applicants

- 3.0 GPA (Middle School Cumulative)
- 90% in 8th Grade Social Studies
- Interview

10th Grade Applicants

- 3.0 GPA
- At least 80% in AP World History or Human Geography

ALL APPLICANTS

- Completed online application
- Two online recommendations. All emailed recommendations will be discarded.
- Discipline infractions will impact final acceptance into the program.

Spanish Dual Language

Kilpatrick Elementary School

Unidos Dual Language School

- Acceptable score on language proficiency assessment (Grades 2-5)

Morrow Middle School

- Acceptable score on language proficiency assessment
- Two **online** recommendations. All emailed recommendations will be discarded.

ALL APPLICANTS

- Completed online application
- Discipline infractions will impact final acceptance into the program.

STEM/STEAM

M.L. King Elementary School (Botany & Zoology)

West Clayton Elementary School (STEAM)

Rex Mill Middle School (STEM)

- 80% or above in Math, Science, English Language Arts, and Social Studies
- Two online recommendations. All emailed recommendations will be discarded.

North Clayton Middle School (STEM)

Charles R. Drew High School (Medical Sciences)

- Two online recommendations. All emailed recommendations will be discarded.

9th Grade Applicants (First Priority)

- Algebra I* Completion
- Physical Science* or Biology* Completion
- Grade B or higher in all core classes in 8th grade

9th Grade Applicants (Second Priority)

- Grade B or higher in all Core classes in 8th grade

10th Grade Applicants (First Priority)

- Algebra I*, Geometry*, Physical Science*, Biology*, Social Studies*, and 9th Grade Literature with 85% or higher

10th Grade Applicants (Second Priority)

- Algebra I*, Physical Science*, Biology*, Social Studies*, and 9th Grade Literature with 80% or higher

ALL APPLICANTS

- Completed online application
- Discipline infractions will impact final acceptance into the program.

MAGNET SCHOOLS CRITERIA

STEM/STEAM

Morrow High School

North Clayton High School

- Completed online application
- Two online recommendations. All emailed recommendations will be discarded.
- Discipline infractions will impact final acceptance into the program.

Visual and Performing Arts

Kay R. Pace School of the Arts

Kindergarten through 1st Grade

- Completed online application

2nd Grade through 5th Grade

- Completed online application
- Eligible Audition Score

M.D. Roberts Middle School of the Arts

- Completed online application
- Eligible Audition Score
- Must have 71 or above in each class using the most recent grading period
- Two online recommendations. All emailed recommendations will be discarded.

M.E. Stilwell School of the Arts

- Completed online application
- 2.8 GPA (Middle School Cumulative)
- Eligible Audition Score

ALL APPLICANTS

- Students must audition only in areas listed on the application.
- Two online recommendations. All emailed recommendations will be discarded.
- Discipline infractions will impact final acceptance into the program.

"My son has gained more confidence, dedication and a real excitement for learning thanks to the magnet program at Rex Mill Middle School."

"The magnet program gave both of my children access to learn & grow in a more creative environment with personalize learning and smaller class sizes. "
(Parent of a senior and sophomore)

"The Fine Arts Magnet Program should be referred to as a Fine Arts Experience. My daughter has been provided numerous opportunities to engage in the arts from elementary to middle school. It is an inclusive experience that has nurtured her passion for dance and theater. The Fine Arts program has allowed real industry artists to provide in-person, hands-on experiences. Be it Alvin Ailey or the Junior Theater Festival and more. All experiences have assured her that there is a place for her, and it can be a viable educational pathway and a career. "

MAGNET GENERAL INFORMATION

Magnet Programs Information

- **School Choice website** - www.clayton.k12.ga.us/departments/school_choice
- Visit school websites
- **Email:** schoolchoice@clayton.k12.ga.us
- **Email:** magnetprograms@clayton.k12.ga.us

Application Deadlines for the 2026-2027 School Year

December 1, 2025 (5:00PM): On-time application deadline for Magnet Programs.

Late applications will be accepted after **February 1, 2026**; however, they will not be included in the **March 2026** Magnet lottery and will be entered after all applicants in the wait pool have been assigned. The late applications will close March 1, 2026.. **Non-Resident applicants please see Page 21 for your application date.**

Application Submission

Complete application online at <https://applyclayton.schoolmint.com>. Students currently enrolled in Clayton County Public Schools must enter their student ID number.

All duplicate applications will be deleted and students will not be eligible for the lottery.

Application Guidelines

- The student's and parent's address must match the address on file in Infinite Campus or the application will not be processed. Infinite Campus must reflect your current residential address at the time of application.
- The parent and student must be full-time Clayton County residents at the time of the application.
- **Only ONE application per student may be submitted.**
- A maximum of two choice programs per application may be selected.
- Choices may be any combination of programs or schools.
- Applicants rank first and second choices in order of preference. First and second choices do not have equal chances of being selected. Programs may have limited numbers of available seats and not have any second-choice students assigned in the lottery.
- Identification of a second choice does not decrease a student's chance of being selected to their first choice.

- Sibling preference is not applicable to magnet programs.
- Changes cannot be made once the application has been submitted.
- Students with Disabilities are eligible to apply to Choice programs. An IEP team may convene to ensure the IEP can be implemented once the student is accepted.
- English Language Learners and 504 students can be accommodated in all Choice programs and are encouraged to apply.

Available Seats in Choice Programs

The greatest number of available seats at each school is for students entering grades kindergarten, six, or nine (Except Elite Scholars Academy - grade 9).

Eligibility of applicants

- All applicants must meet age, residency, and academic requirements.
- Full requirements are posted to the [School Choice](#) website.
- For students in grade 9, the GPA listed in Infinite Campus at the time of eligibility determination will be considered.
- For students enrolling in grade 9, the cumulative GPA for middle school will be considered.
- Students not meeting eligibility criteria will not be placed in the Choice Lottery for that program.
- If a student is determined ineligible for his/her first choice selection, the second choice program selection on the application does not move to the first choice preference.
- All students are required to meet the minimum criteria for admission into a magnet program or school. However, if a student cannot be accommodated at another non-charter school within the district, the district reserves the right to place the student in a magnet program or non-charter school, as long as the student meets the eligibility requirements. District and school staff will collaborate to make enrollment decisions in a fair and thoughtful manner, prioritizing the best interests of both the student and the school community.

Current Home Education, Virtual School, Private School, and Charter School Students

Parents must submit proof of residency, transcripts, and standardized assessment results to the School Choice Department via the online portal no later than **December 1, 2025**. Please check eligibility requirements for complete details.

Post Lottery

- Students who are selected in the on-time Choice lottery will receive notification from the district via email and the <http://applyclayton.schoolmint.com> portal by **March 25, 2026**.
- Students who are not selected in the on-time Choice lottery will receive notification from the district via email on or about **March 25, 2026**.
- Once a student is selected for one of their choices, the student is immediately removed from the wait pool for the remaining program on the application.
- If a student declines their first choice assignment, the student must attend his zoned school.
- Students assigned to their first choice cannot choose to remain in the wait pool for their second choice.
- If a student declines their second choice assignment, the student may remain in the wait pool for their first choice. A decline of a second choice lottery assignment will automatically place the student in the wait pool for the first choice. To be considered, eligibility criteria must be met for the first choice program.
- If a student is accepted into the 1st or 2nd choice, the system will auto-decline the student's other choice on the offered list upon accepting the seat into another choice.
- Students who are selected and accept placement into a Choice program must agree to participate on a full-time basis.
- An applicant may not be selected for either one of their choices. If this occurs, the student is placed in a wait pool and may be accepted for any openings reported by the school.
- Students may be assigned through the lottery process until 4:00pm on the first day of school.
- If a student exits a Choice program voluntarily that student may re-apply in any future lottery cycle to the same Choice program. All criteria must be met.
- If a student exits a Choice program involuntarily, that student will forfeit the seat and may not apply in any future lottery cycle to the same Choice program.
- If a student is not selected to attend a Choice program prior to the start of the 2026-2027 school year a new application may be submitted for the 2027-2028 school year.

Accepted Students

- All Choice programs require, as a condition for admission, that parents/legal guardians sign a contract agreeing to the student requirements of the Choice school.
- The parent or guardian has the right to withdraw the student at any time but removal at the end of the semester or year is highly recommended.
- A student who fails to meet the standards established in the contract will be placed on probation.
- If the student does not meet the terms of probation by the end of the designated marking period, or a Level 3 or 4 incident according to the CCPS Student Code of Conduct occurs, a diverse committee of school and district representatives will establish a review, discuss, and recommend the appropriate action, as per the school program requirements.
- Certain programs may require students to maintain designated GPA for continued participation.
- Schools may only exit students at the end of a semester unless a serious offense warrants such removal (Discipline Level 3 or 4 or recommendation of the school committee). If a student is exited, the student is no longer eligible to apply for any program at the school in any future application cycle.
- Magnet programs will have a different dress code from the district-wide dress code. Please review the school's website for the current requirements.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Review each school's academic requirements prior to submitting the application
- Choose programs that fit your child's interests
- Submit required documents early
- Prepare for auditions/interviews if required
- Rank your choices carefully
- Double-check your application before submission – no changes can be made after submission

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Georgia Pre-K uses Georgia Early Learning Development Standards (GELDS) to drive instruction and is linked to the Pre-K curriculum. The standards are a set of appropriate, attainable standards that are flexible enough to support children's individual rates of development, approaches to learning, and cultural context. The GELDS are a continuum of skills, behaviors, and concepts that children develop throughout this time of life. They are divided into age groups and serve as a framework for learning.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

PRE-KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IMPORTANT DATES:

- Lottery Application: March 1, 2026 - March 18, 2026
- Acceptance & Waitlist Letters Emailed April 19, 2026 to April 23, 2026

Pre-Kindergarten Hours

8:30am - 11:30am
1:00pm - 3:00pm

- To qualify for this program, a child must be four years of age on or before September 1st of the school year and must be a resident of Clayton County.
- Acceptance into Clayton County Public Schools' Pre-K classes will be based on a computer generated lottery system. Priority is given to children residing within the school's attendance area. Parents may apply for one Clayton County School's Pre-K site of their choice
- After students are accepted, parents must register their child using the Online Registration portal.

Click [here](#) for more information



PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

Anderson Elementary

Arnold Elementary

Brown Elementary

Callaway Elementary

Church Street Elementary

East Clayton Elementary

Edmonds Elementary

Fountain Elementary

Harper Elementary

Hawthorne Elementary

Haynie Elementary

Huie Elementary

Jackson Elementary

Kemp Primary

Lake City Elementary

Lake Ridge Elementary

Lee Street Elementary

Marshall Elementary

M.L. King Elementary

McGarrah Elementary

Michelle Obama STEM

Morrow Elementary

Mount Zion Primary

Northcutt Elementary

Oliver Elementary

Point South Elementary

River's Edge Elementary

Riverdale Early Learning Ctr

Riverdale Elementary

Smith Elementary

Suder Elementary

Swint Elementary

Tara Elementary

Unidos Dual Language School

West Clayton Elementary

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Inquire about the curriculum and daily schedule
- Establish routines to help your child prepare for school
- Talk about and promote acceptable behavior at school

VIRTUAL LEARNING PROGRAM

The Clayton County Public Schools' VLP offers students in grades 3-12 a flexible, technology-rich learning environment from home. Designed to promote academic success, innovation, and independent learning, VLP provides access to certified teachers, advanced coursework, and real-world learning opportunities such as internships, dual enrollment and IT career pathway.

All students must meet eligibility criteria and be supported by a learning coach at home.

Sibling preference is not granted for the Virtual Learning Program.



Must have a learning coach who is 18 years or older to support them with navigating through various online instructional platforms

Must have a learning coach who is 18 years or older to support them with navigating through various online instructional platforms

Students must have appropriate grade level credits (units) to be accepted into the CCPS Virtual Learning Program

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students must have a 3.0 (Developing) or higher language proficiency score



Individual Accommodations Plan (IAPs) for students with 504 accommodations will be reviewed to ensure virtual instruction is an appropriate setting



Individual Education Plans (IEPs) will be reviewed to ensure virtual instruction is an appropriate setting for students with disabilities to be successful



Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) supports will be adapted for virtual implementation

Virtual Learning Application Dates:
April 1, 2026 - April 30, 2026

STUDENT TRANSFERS

Student transfers allow parents or legal guardians to request that their child attend a school other than their zoned school or designated attendance zone.

**Transfer Application Dates:
April 15, 2026 - May 31, 2026**

TYPES OF TRANSFERS



HB251

Permits transfer to another school where space is available

- **Childcare Transfer (Grades K-8)**
- **Core Curriculum Transfers (Grades 6-8)**
- **Medical Transfer**
- **Military Transfer**
- **Pathways Transfer (Grades 9-10)**



SB10

Allows transfer of students with disabilities to another public school

If a parent requests a transfer to a school that does not have the services required by the current IEP or IAP, the district is not required to develop those services, as long as they are available within the local school district.



EMPLOYEE

Children of district employees may transfer to a school within the district

- **Children of full-time employees, regardless of their work location, may apply to any CCPS school with available seats. NOTE: Employees must follow the Magnet application process to include deadlines for Magnet application submission**
- **The lottery process follows HB251 guidelines**
- **Employees are required to submit a Parent/Student Transfer Acknowledgement form**

Sibling preference is not granted for student transfers.

STUDENT TRANSFERS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Student Transfers Information

- **School Choice website** - www.clayton.k12.ga.us/departments/school_choice
- Visit school websites
- **Email:** schoolchoice@clayton.k12.ga.us

Application Deadlines for the 2026-2027 School Year

May 31, 2026 (5:00PM): Application deadline for Student Transfers.

Application Submission

Complete application online at <https://applyclayton.schoolmint.com>. Students currently enrolled in Clayton County Public Schools must enter their student ID number.

All duplicate applications will be deleted and students will not be eligible for the lottery.

Available Seats in Choice Programs

When the number of transfer requests exceed remaining available seats, the school is closed to transfers for the year.

Eligibility of applicants

- All applicants must be enrolled in a CCPS school for the 2025-2026 school year during the application submission. (Does not apply to employees)
- Full requirements are posted to the [School Choice](#) website.
- Students not meeting eligibility criteria will not be placed in the School Choice Lottery for that program.
- If a student is determined ineligible for his/her first choice selection, the second choice program selection on the application does not move to the first choice preference.

Application Guidelines

- The student's and parent's address must match the address on file in Infinite Campus or the application will not be processed. Infinite Campus must reflect your current residential address at the time of application.
- The parent and student must be full-time Clayton County residents at the time of the application. (Does not apply to full-time employees)
- **Only ONE application per student may be submitted.**
- A maximum of two choice programs per application may be selected.
- Choices may be any combination of schools.
- Applicants rank first and second choices in order of preference. First and second choices do not have equal chances of being selected. Programs may have limited numbers of available seats and not have any second-choice students assigned in the lottery.
- Identification of a second choice does not decrease a student's chance of being selected to their first choice.
- Sibling preference is not applicable to transfer applicants.
- Changes to the application are only allowed prior to submission.
- Students with Disabilities are eligible to apply for a student transfer. An IEP team may convene to ensure the IEP can be implemented once the student is accepted.
- English Language Learners and 504 students can be accommodated in all schools and are encouraged to apply.

Once your application is submitted, you will no longer have access to change or add any information.

Post Lottery

- Students who are selected in the on-time School Choice lottery will receive notification from the district via email and the <http://applyclayton.schoolmint.com> portal by July 15, 2026.
- Students who were not selected in the on-time School Choice lottery will receive notification from the district via email on or about July 15, 2026.
- Once a student is selected for one of their choices, the student is immediately removed from the wait pool for the remaining program on the application.
- If a student declines their first choice assignment, the student must attend the zoned school.
- Students assigned to their first choice cannot choose to remain in the wait pool for their second choice.
- If a student declines their second choice assignment, the student may remain in the wait pool for their first choice. A decline of a second choice lottery assignment will automatically place the student in the wait pool for the first choice. To be considered, eligibility criteria must be met for the first choice program.
- If a student is accepted into the 1st or 2nd choice, the system will auto-decline the student's other choice on the offered list upon accepting the seat into another choice.
- Students who are selected and accept placement into a School Choice program must agree to participate on a full-time basis.
- An applicant may not be selected for either one of their choices. If this occurs, the student is placed in a wait pool and may be accepted for any openings reported by the school.
- Only one student transfer approval is granted per school year.
- Students must be enrolled in school within the first 8 days of the school year.

Tips for Parents

- Determine the right transfer option for your child.
- Review all application information for accuracy before submitting.
- Please be patient as applications are processed.
- **Plan for Transportation** - Student transfers do not include district transportation. Be prepared to arrange reliable, on-time transportation daily.
- **Consider Siblings** - If applying for more than one child, submit applications for each sibling. Sibling preference is not granted for student transfers.
- **Understand the Transfer Agreement** - Once approved, students must follow all attendance, academic, and behavioral expectations. Violations may result in transfer revocation.

Charter Schools

Four charter schools operate under the auspices of Clayton County Public Schools:

- Tapestry Public Charter School (**NEW**)
- Utopian Academy for the Arts (Elementary)
- Utopian Academy for the Arts (Middle)
- Utopian Academy for the Arts (High)

Each charter school has its own application process. Interested parents must contact the school for enrollment information.

TIPS FOR PARENTS Considering Charter Schools



Start Early

Reach out to the charter school as early as possible to understand their application process, deadlines, and enrollment requirements



Know the School's Focus

Ask about the curriculum, extracurriculars



Visit the Campus

Schedule a tour or attend an open house



Understand the Application Process

Charter schools manage their own enrollment. Parents must contact the schools directly.

Non-Resident Students

(Original Adopted Date: 06/04/2018; Revised Date: 05/05/2025)

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) provides an opportunity for students who are not residents of Clayton County to attend schools within the District, subject to the below guidelines.

All non-resident students who do not fall under the exceptions listed in JBCA-R(1), shall be considered “FTE-based, non-resident” students and are required to pay an FTE fee to attend schools within the CCPS. FTE Fee payments shall be waived for children of employees accepted as non-resident students.

To attain FTE-based, non-resident status, each student must submit an application to attend Clayton County Public Schools and receive written approval from the Superintendent or his/her designee. Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria: a) history of good behavior, b) average or above-average academic achievement through past grades and/or standardized achievement test scores, c) evidence of satisfactory attendance, and (d) current instructional program services which will meet the educational, physical and emotional needs of the student.

The Superintendent and his/her designee shall have the right to refuse admission to any applicant if, in his/her opinion, accepting the student would not be in the best interest of the school system. Acceptance of FTE-based, non-resident students may also be limited by school capacity and program availability. A decision regarding the FTE-based, non-resident request will be considered final.

If false information is provided during the application process, or the circumstances under which the approval was granted change, the tuition-based, non-resident student's enrollment may be revoked.

An FTE-based, non-resident student under these regulations will be treated as a resident student for the purposes of the lottery process and magnet programs. However, FTE-based, non-resident students in this category do not receive preferential treatment in the lottery process for assignment or in programs where students must apply to be accepted (i.e. magnet schools/programs), nor will they bump students currently on the wait list for these programs. FTE-based students will be placed after resident students during the lottery year. If students are not placed prior to the first day of school, students must re-apply for the following school year.

FTE rates shall be calculated annually and set based upon guidelines set forth in accordance with state law and shall be due on a fee schedule determined by District procedures. Payments shall be made on a per semester basis, at least ten (10) business days in advance of the start of the semester. Payments will only be accepted via credit or debit card, or in a postal money order or cashier's check form. No personal checks or cash will be accepted. Note: if a student voluntarily withdraws or is involuntarily withdrawn as a result of a disciplinary sanction within a semester, any pre-paid fee will not be reimbursed.

For all FTE-based, non-resident student approvals, the following provisions apply:

1. Students who receive an FTE-based, non-resident approval and enroll in the year in which permission is granted may attend the school through the highest grade of the particular school prior to re-applying;
2. Transportation must be provided by the parent/guardian. However, the parent/guardian may take advantage of the District shuttle opportunities, if available;
3. If the student receives special education services, the school selected must have the special education services required by the current Individual Education Plan (IEP) and space available for programming; and
4. If the student transfers at the high school level, he/she must meet Georgia High School Association requirements to participate in competitive interscholastic activities.

Subject to other qualifications for non-resident students, students who are residents of nations other than the United States who reside with a family who is a resident of Clayton County may be admitted without payment of the fee under recognized foreign student exchange programs.

Non-Resident Students

Continued

All non-resident students must maintain acceptable behavior, attendance, passing grades and a cooperative/productive relationship between home and school. Enrollment may be denied or terminated if these conditions are not met.

The school system reserves the right to terminate the enrollment of a non-resident student at any time, for any legal reason, including failure to pay the FTE fee on time, poor academic performance, poor attendance, excessive tardiness, or poor behavior as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Important Dates for the 2026-2027 School Year

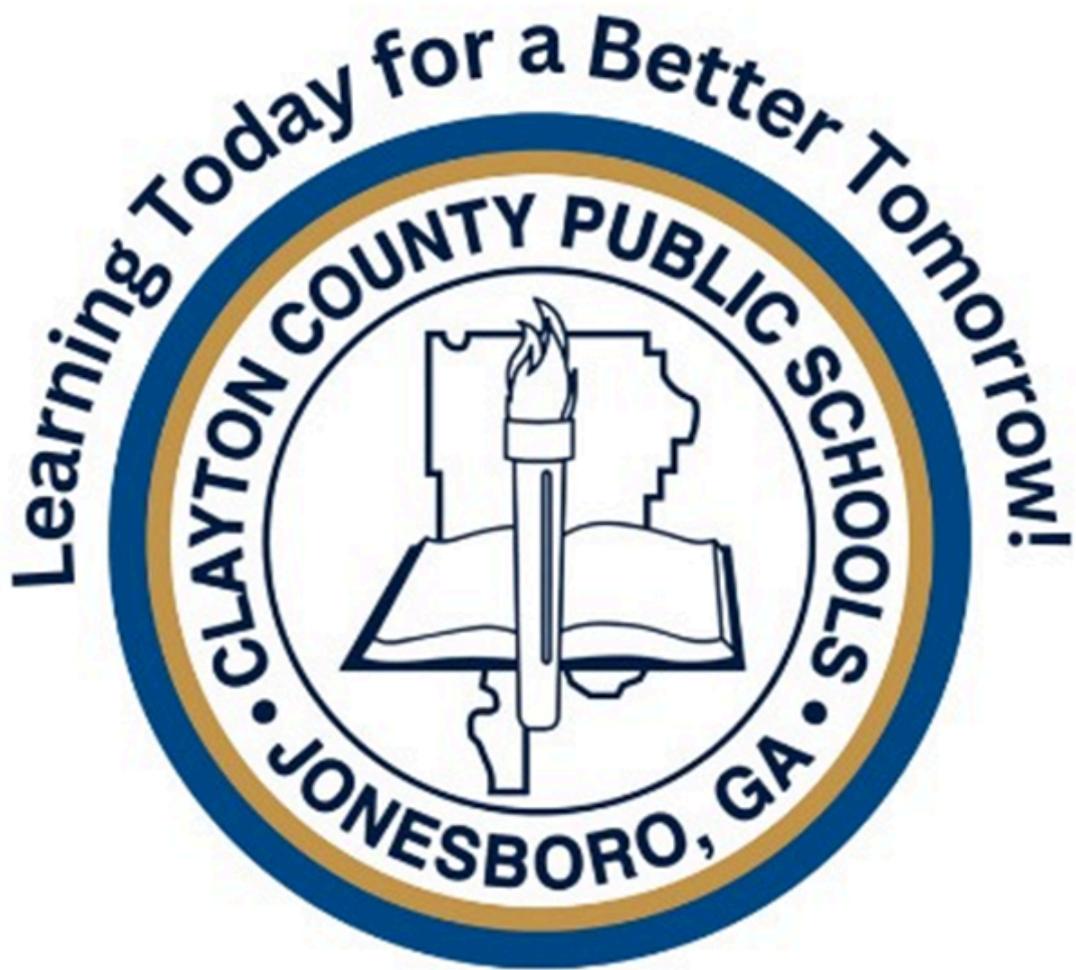
NON-RESIDENT APPLICATION PERIOD

February 1, 2026 - March 1, 2026

Tips for Non-Resident Applicants

- **Apply Early**
Submit your application on time. Late applications will not be considered
- **Understand Your Priority Level**
Resident students are placed before non-resident applicants. Seats are only offered to non-residents after all residents placements are finalized
- **Be Ready with Documentation**
Prepare to upload all required documents including proof of residency, academic records and any additional paperwork requested by the School Choice Office
- **Consider Transportation**
Transportation is not provided for non-resident students. Be sure you can arrange reliable transportation before applying
- **Prepare for Limited Availability**
Non-resident approvals are limited and not guaranteed - even if your child was previously enrolled in a CCPS school
- **Stay Connected**
Check your email regularly after the application closes for approval or denial letters. Final notifications will be sent before June 1, 2026
- **Sign Contract by the Deadline**
Enrollment contracts must be signed prior to the given deadline

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Student Discipline

MAGNET PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL PERMISSION SCHOOL PLACEMENT

Board Regulation JD-R(1)

Clayton County School District offers resident and non-resident students an opportunity to attend a school choice/program via application, fee-based and lottery processes ("special permission students"). This includes the Virtual Learning Program, House Bill 251, Senate Bill 10, Student Transfers, Magnet Programs, FTE Fee-based Students, etc. All students must adhere to the Clayton County Public Schools' Code of Conduct and are subject to disciplinary consequences under the District's Code of Conduct. Further, special permission students are subject to behavioral, attendance and grade expectations, as outlined by their applicable program.

Special permission students must adhere to the rules and regulations as outlined in the Clayton County Public Schools Parent and Student Handbook. In addition to the Code of Conduct, and any applicable rules outlined by the Student's applicable program, the following expectations apply to Special Permission Students:

- Students must adhere to the rules and regulations as outlined in the Clayton County Public Schools Parent and Student Handbook.
- Students cannot receive an NI/U for conduct in their academic or theme-based courses.
- Two or more level 1 infractions can result in probation/dismissal.
- Students who receive NI/U or level 1 infractions will receive an Individual Behavior Plan to support the student during the probation period.
- Level 2-4 infractions can result in immediate dismissal from the program. (Ex. Fighting, weapons, drugs, gang activity, blatant disrespect to personnel, etc.) Dismissal from the program/placement may result in immediate reenrollment in student's home zoned school for resident students or District withdrawal for non-resident fee-based students.
- Bullying: If the accusation of bullying is proven after an investigation from administration, it may result in automatic dismissal from the program.

Commitment to Excellence in all Choice Programs

All School Choice participants - including students enrolled in Magnet, Virtual Learning, Pre-K, Transfers, Dual Language, and other district programs - are expected to uphold academic, behavioral, and attendance standards. To support student success and maintain program integrity, each School Choice option has a defined process for probation and potential dismissal when these standards are not met.

Student Expectations, Probation & Dismissal Procedures

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Maintain good academic standing
- Follow the Clayton County Public Schools Code of Conduct
- Meet attendance requirements

PROBATION PROCESS

- Students who do not meet expectations may be placed on probation
- Parents will receive written notification
 - Area(s) of concern
 - Timeline for improvement
 - Support strategies offered

DISMISSAL PROCESS

- If probation requirements are not met within the designated time:
 - The student may be dismissed from the program
 - Dismissal decisions are reviewed by a school and district team
- Dismissed students may not reapply to the same program

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Some programs may require students to maintain a minimum GPA
- Magnet Programs may have additional performance or audition requirements
- Dismissals typically occur at the end of a semester unless due to a serious offense (e.g., Level 3 or 4 discipline)

Online Application Process

Applying Online

Using the parent dashboard, your online account will allow you to track the status of your application. Applying online gives you priority access to the lottery results. Prior to applying for a Choice program, we encourage you to attend the Open House for each Choice program to which you intend to apply. Open House dates are available on each school's website.

We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the last day to submit your application. Late applications will not be accepted. The Department is required to enforce the established deadline to ensure fairness to all applicants. The time it takes to upload the supporting documents for your application will vary depending on a number of factors including the size of the files and speed of your internet connection. If you try to submit your application after 5:00PM Eastern Time on the deadline date, the SchoolMint system will not accept it.

How to Apply

Go to <https://applyclayton.schoolmint.com> on your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Reminders:

- A separate application must be submitted for each child applying for a Choice program.
- Remember to “Submit” your application or it will not be considered in the Choice lottery. Your application status can be viewed on the parent dashboard upon login.
- Duplicate applications will be withdrawn from consideration.
- Do not forget to schedule an audition/interview while you are completing the application. Your application will be denied if the audition/interview is not scheduled by the guardian/parent.
- Deadline: Please see the School Choice Calendar for deadlines for each program.

Scan the QR code to add the icon to the home screen of your mobile device.



Student Transportation

School Choice magnet students receive transportation to the designated school if they reside more than one and one half (1-1/2) miles from the school and live within a designated magnet school transportation zone. Students that live outside of the magnet school transportation zone may attend the magnet school if they provide their own transportation to and from school or go to the nearest designated shuttle bus stop pick-up locations for the magnet program. Please note that if the ridership is low for any magnet program/school, the shuttle bus stop for that school will be eliminated. Available shuttle bus stops are listed online at www.clayton.k12.ga.us/departments/transportation. Additional bus stops will not be created for students who reside within the magnet school zone.

Student transfers for House Bill 251 and Student Hardship do not receive transportation.

NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can my child be dropped off at a different location?

Only if it's a designated stop and arranged in advance through Transportation Services

Who do I contact for late buses?

Call the CCPS Transportation Department

Are Choice students guaranteed transportation?

No. Transportation is only provided for eligible routes and programs



Important Dates at a Glance

2026-2027 School Year

Program	Application Window	Notification Date
Magnet Programs (On-Time)	Nov. 1, 2025- Dec. 1, 2025 5:00PM	On or before March 25, 2026
Magnet Programs (Late Applications)	Feb. 1, 2026 - Mar. 1, 2026 5:00PM	After May 1, 2026
Non-Resident Applications	Feb. 1, 2026 - Mar. 1, 2026 5:00PM	After May 1, 2026
Pre-Kindergarten	Mar. 1, 2026 - Mar. 18, 2026	Apr. 19, 2026-Apr. 23, 2026
Virtual Learning Program	Apr. 1, 2026 - Apr. 30, 2026 5:00PM	After May 1, 2026
Student Transfers	Apr. 15, 2026 - May 31, 2026 5:00PM	Before July 15, 2026



Reminder

- All applications (except Pre-K) must be submitted via applyclayton.schoolmint.com
- Deadlines are firm - late submissions are not accepted
- Transportation is limited, confirm details before applying
- Check your email regularly for updates and decisions