



MUSCOGEE COUNTY

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

MCSO Announces Application Window for Open Seat Transfers and Hardship Requests

Columbus, GA- The Muscogee County School District (MCSO) has set the window for the school year 2026-2027 Open Seat Transfer requests in accordance with Georgia House Bill 251 (HB 251). Applications will be available online, from 12:00 a.m., May 4, 2026 – May 21, 2026. Application submissions for Open Seat Transfers will close at 11:59 p.m. on May 21, 2026; late submissions will not be considered for selection. Exceptions to the deadline include parents or legal guardians of students who are new to the district. Approvals and/or denials statuses will be sent, by email, to the parent and/or legal guardian by July 10, 2026.

NOTE: *An Online Registration application for the 2026-2027 school year MUST be completed in order to be considered for an Open-Seat Transfer or Hardship request.*

Please note, the following schools are not available for Transfers due to seat availability:

1. Britt David Elementary
2. Columbus High School
3. Rainey-McCullers Magnet

4. Downtown Elementary
5. Northside High School
6. Clubview Elementary
7. Eagle Ridge Elementary
8. Mathews Elementary
9. North Columbus Elementary
10. Veterans Memorial Middle
11. Martin Luther King Jr
12. Dorothy Height
13. Brewer Elementary
14. Davis Elementary
15. Richards Middle School

OPEN SEAT TRANSFERS

Parents and/or legal guardians should note the following information if preparing to apply for Open Seat Transfers in accordance with HB 251.

1. HB 251 allows parents or guardians of students enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school in Georgia to elect to enroll their student in a public school that is located within the school district in which the student resides, other than the one to which the student has been assigned if such school has permanent classroom space available after its assigned students have been enrolled.
2. The parent/guardian shall assume the responsibility and cost of transportation of the student to and from the school.
3. If the student receives Special Education services, the school being applied to must already have the Special Education services in place, as required by the student's current Individual Education Plan (IEP) or the transfer request will be denied.
4. Students eligible for transfer under the unsafe school choice option will receive first priority for any available seats.
5. If the number of requests exceeds the number of spaces available at a school, the requests will be selected via a lottery. There will be no appeals.
6. The parent and/or legal guardian will have 14 days from the receipt of approval to confirm enrollment. Failure to confirm enrollment by the deadline will forfeit the transfer approval.
7. Any change of school placement which is not the result of a bona fide change of residence, such as transfers under HB 251, may impact a student's eligibility to participate in Georgia High School Association (GHSA) sanctioned varsity activities and events for a period of one calendar year. The parent and/or legal guardian is responsible for investigating and determining the impact of such a transfer.

HARDSHIPS TRANSFERS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR:

Hardship Transfer Definition and Guidelines

A Hardship Transfer reserved for documented, verifiable emergencies. A hardship includes—but is not limited to—catastrophic, sudden, or life-altering events that create an immediate and compelling need for a student to attend a school other than their zoned school. Hardships occur without warning, cannot be planned or anticipated, and are unique to each individual or family.

Documentation Requirements

- Documentation is required in order to assess and determine whether a hardship exists. All documentation must come from a verifiable, credible source.
- *Handwritten notes, personal statements, preferences, or information that cannot be verified—even if supported by the school—cannot be accepted as adequate documentation for a hardship request.
 - All assignments are based on seat availability.
 - There is no appeals process.

MCS D Employee Dependent Transfer Requirements

Employees of the Muscogee County School District (MCS D) who wish to request a school transfer for their dependent must submit an Employee Dependent Transfer Request for review and approval. Transfers are not automatically granted and are subject to space availability, school capacity, and district guidelines.

To remain eligible for an Employee Dependent Transfer, the following requirements must be met:

1. The parent/guardian must be a current employee of MCS D at the time the transfer request is submitted and throughout the entire school year for which the transfer is approved.
2. A new Employee Dependent Transfer Request must be submitted each school year.
3. Approval is not guaranteed from year to year.
4. Continued placement is contingent upon the parent's continued employment with MCS D.
5. All requests must be submitted within the published application window.
6. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent/guardian unless otherwise specified by district policy.

Please click on the following link to complete your Open-Seat Transfer or Hardship request application:

<https://apps.muscogee.k12.ga.us/transfers>

The Muscogee County School District maintains attendance zones for school assignments. Parents are encouraged to register students at the school of assignment based on the legal residence. For more information related to transfer requests or assignments, parents and guardians should contact the zoned school of assignment or Central Registration at centralregistration@muscogee.k12.ga.us.

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About Muscogee County School District

The Muscogee County School District is committed to providing an education that inspires and equips students to reach their full potential and become productive citizens in a global society. Focusing on excellence, equity, and innovation, the district serves a diverse student population, fostering academic success, personal growth, and community engagement.

Connect with us:

- Website: <https://www.muscogee.k12.ga.us/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/muscogeecountyschooldistrict/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mcsdschools/>

Media Inquiries: Contact Kimberly A. Wright, Director of Communications, at communications1@muscogee.k12.ga.us.