Bright Minds.
Boundless
Possibilities.
Empowering
Every Learner
Every Day.





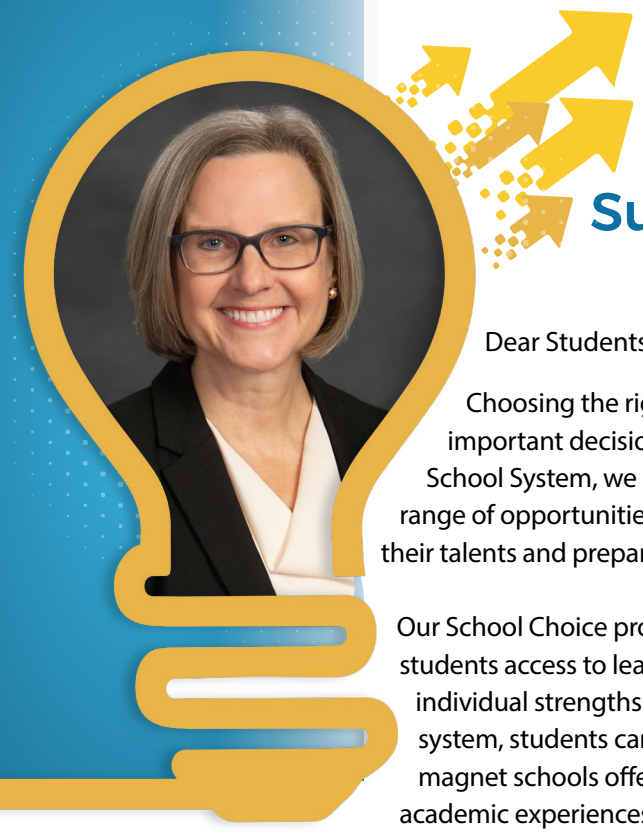


Richmond County School System

RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

School Choice Guide 2027-2028

Magnet Schools | Specialized Programs | Career and Technical Pathways for All Students



Superintendent's Message

Dear Students and Families,

Choosing the right educational experience is an important decision, and in the Richmond County School System, we are proud to offer students a wide range of opportunities to discover their interests, develop their talents and prepare for what comes after graduation.

Our School Choice programs are designed to give students access to learning experiences that match their individual strengths and aspirations. Across our school system, students can choose from nationally recognized magnet schools offering rigorous and specialized academic experiences, career and technical education pathways that connect classroom learning to high-demand industries, and skilled trade programs that allow students to graduate with valuable skills and credentials. Whether a student is interested in the fine arts, health sciences, engineering, technology, skilled trades or another career field, there are opportunities to begin exploring that future while still in school.

Our goal is for students to leave the Richmond County School System prepared to continue their education, enlist in military service, enter the workforce or pursue entrepreneurship with the skills and confidence to build a meaningful career and life.

As you explore this guide, I encourage you to consider the opportunities that best align with your student's interests and goals. Visit our schools, attend an open house, talk with our educators and students, and learn more about the programs available to your family. There is so much to discover across the Richmond County School System.

Our vision is to prepare every student to thrive, adapt and lead in an ever-changing world. Wherever your student's path may lead, we are honored to help them take the next step.

Sincerely,

Malinda B. Cobb

Dr. Malinda B. Cobb
Superintendent of Schools
Richmond County School System

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Samantha M. Valentine
District 10 (at-large)

RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

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Richmond County School System

School Choice

Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Contact Us (706) 826-1136

November 1, 2026
Applications open for magnet schools and specialized programs at 8 a.m.
April 1–May 1, 2027
Spring Application Period

Scan QR Code to learn more about **School Choice** or visit **rcboe.info/choice**





- **John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School (6–12)**
- **A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School (6–12)**
- **Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School (RCTCM) (6–12)**
- **C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School (K–5)**

What is SCHOOL CHOICE?

Richmond County School System (RCSS) families have access to a variety of school choice options designed to meet the interests and academic needs of all our students.

Several of our schools offer specialized courses and programs open to all students in Richmond County. From International Baccalaureate Programmes to skilled trades, cybersecurity, robotics, and visual and performing arts, we have options to support your child(ren)'s diverse interests.

Our school system is also home to four award-winning magnet schools that offer rigorous academic programs and special focus areas.

In addition to our magnet schools and specialized programs, which require a competitive application, we offer school choice options established by Georgia law to meet our families' needs. House Bill 251 (HB251) makes it possible to request a transfer to another school in Richmond County without a hardship. HB251 transfer applications are open November 1 through May 1 each year. Families residing in Richmond County may request a zone exemption from one school attendance zone to another for extreme hardships. The hardships include medical, financial, and bullying, and proof of the hardship must be presented on the application. The school must have available space to be considered for the request.

For HB251, any school that is above 80% of their enrollment capacity is not eligible for consideration for students who are out of zone. Any newly-opened school is ineligible for school choice for a period of four years.

November 1, 2026–January 8, 2027:
Fall application period

April 1–May 1:
Spring Application Period

Dedicated Magnet Schools:

Application Requirements for Early Acceptance



System Requirements for all Magnet Schools and Specialized Programs:

- For a competitive application, students should have a final average of 80 in each of the core subjects (math, reading, science, social studies), and conduct (grades 1–6) from the previous school year.
- Applicants are required to participate in the system-wide reading and math assessment.
- Students considered for admissions must perform on grade level or higher.
- Applicants must be residents of Richmond County to enroll in any Richmond County magnet school or specialized program.
- Kindergarten applicants must reach the age of 5 by September 1 of the year enrolling.
- K-3 applicants must maintain a "B" average or a rating of 2 (for students with standards-based report cards), in language arts and math for the current school year; applicants in grades 4–11 must maintain an 80 average in each core subject.
- Students in grades 4–6 must also maintain a "B" average in conduct.
- At the end of the current school year, magnet school candidates must present cumulative current report cards.

Students Currently Enrolled in the Richmond County School System:

Before you begin the application, you will need your child's 9-digit student identification number. This number may be obtained from your child(ren)'s current school, the Infinite Campus Parent Portal, or your child(ren)'s report card. The number typically begins with the digits 300. This is NOT your child's social security number. Providing this number will allow us to access your child's grades and streamline the application process.

For information on how to access your Infinite Campus ParentPortal account, visit **rcboe.org/parentportal.**

Students NOT Currently Enrolled in the Richmond County School System:

- Before you begin the application, you will need a copy of your child(ren)'s report card for the last school year (unless you are applying to kindergarten).
- Students applying to 10th, 11th, or 12th grade will also be required to submit a current high school transcript.
- During the online application process, you will be prompted to upload supporting documents. If you are unable to upload required documents, **please mail them to the address below**. All items must be postmarked **by January 6:**

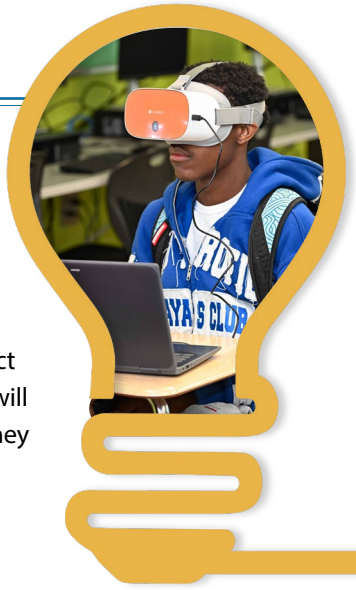
Richmond County School System
Attn: Magnet/Choice Application
864 Broad Street • Augusta, GA 30901
rcboe.org/choice



Transportation

Shuttle bus transportation to and from school is provided for the following magnet schools and specialized programs:
Marion E. Barnes Career Center, RPM, PLC, and Cyber Center:

- Academy of Richmond County
- John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School
- A.R. Johnson Health Science & Engineering Magnet School
- Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School
- C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School
- Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School



2027 Magnet School

and Specialized Program Testing Schedule

All students applying to magnet schools and specialized programs must participate in a reading and math readiness assessment, which is typically administered in all Richmond County schools.

During the application process parents can select a preferred testing date and location. Students will take the test according to the grade for which they are applying.

For example, Students applying to kindergarten will test with kindergarten at C.T. Walker Magnet School

Grade Level	Wednesday January 27, 2027 at 4:30 p.m.	Saturday January 30, 2027 at 8:30 a.m.	Saturday January 30, 2027 at 11:00 AM	Saturday January 30, 2027 at 1:30 PM
Kindergarten	Warren Road Elementary	C.T. Walker	C.T. Walker	
1st–5th grade	Copeland Elementary	A. Dorothy Hains Elementary *		Lake Forest Hills Elementary Hephzibah Elementary
6th–12th grade	Academy of Richmond County Davidson Fine Arts Laney High **	Hephzibah High Lanford Tutt Middle		A.R .Johnson RCTCM Cyber Academy

*1st–5th grade applicants with testing accommodation plans will test at A. Dorothy Hains Elementary School **January 30, 2027 at 8:30 a.m.**

6th–12th grade applicants with testing accommodation plans will test at Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School **January 27, 2027 at 4:30 p.m.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ Cybersecurity
- ✓ Culinary Arts
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Energy
- ✓ Audio/Visual Technology and Film
- ✓ Robotics
- ✓ Web Design
- ✓ Game Design
- ✓ Entrepreneurship



A.R. Johnson Health Science & Engineering Magnet School

A.R. Johnson is a public magnet school serving students in grades 6–12. With a comprehensive **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) academic focus integrated into all content areas, students are equipped to explore their interests and enhance their skills across multiple disciplines. Students specialize in engineering or health sciences while gaining hands-on experience that not only deepens their understanding but also provides practical application of classroom knowledge. Students earn hours toward certification in select programs of study, preparing them for future careers in cutting-edge professions.

For more information, visit rcboe.org/choice.

Scan to Apply A.R. Johnson!

A.R. Johnson student **Jonathan Ross, Jr.** was named a 2023 Gates Scholar. Only 750 students were selected out of 51,000 applicants across the nation.

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

- Students with a strong interest in STEAM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics)
- Those who prefer hands-on learning and practical application of knowledge
- Career-driven students with an analytical mind



C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School

C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School serves students in grades K-5. The school has a long and proud tradition of academic excellence spanning more than thirty years. The Traditional program is committed to developing young citizens possessing leadership skills that are nurtured within and are demonstrated openly in service and responsibility to self, family, community, and country. **C.T. Walker** strives to instill the qualities of respect, patriotism, responsibility, and communication. **C.T. Walker** has been named a Georgia School of Excellence, a National Magnet School of Distinction by the Magnet Schools of America, and a National Blue Ribbon School.

For more information, visit **rcboe.org/choice.**

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ **Civics and citizenship**
- ✓ **Manners and etiquette**
- ✓ **Classroom rituals and procedures**

C.T. Walker was recognized by State Superintendent Richard Woods as a Literacy Leader during the 2024–2025 school year.

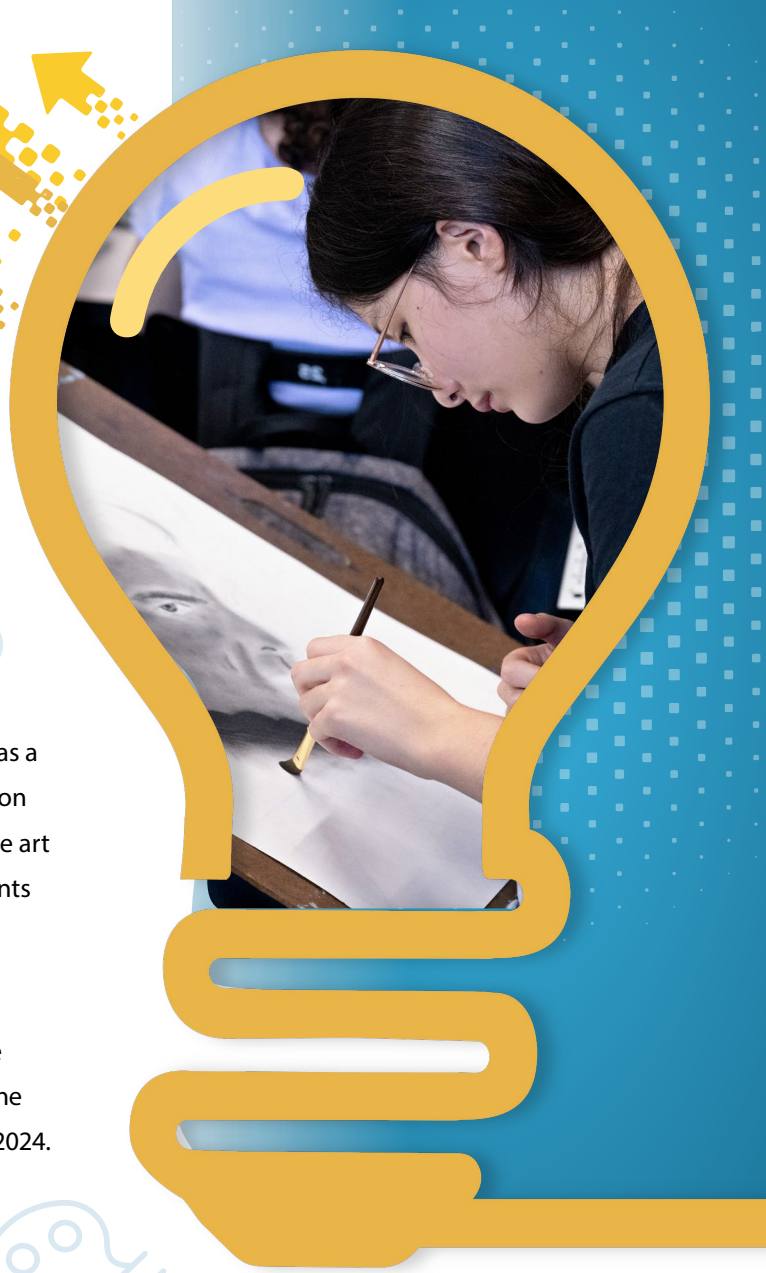
WHO IS BEST SUITED?

- Students who learn best in structured, routine environments
- Students who value good citizenship in a democratic society
- Those who respond successfully to high expectations for personal conduct

Scan to Apply C.T. Walker!

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ Music
- ✓ Dance
- ✓ Drama
- ✓ Art
- ✓ Creative Writing



John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School

John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School was founded in 1981 as a pillar of excellence in academics and the study of fine arts. In addition to rigorous academic preparation, students develop and explore the art forms of drama, dance, visual art, music and creative writing. Students specialize in areas of the arts as they advance each year.

This provides an enriching environment for the study of the arts, establishing **Davidson** as one the highest ranking schools in the state of Georgia and the nation. **Davidson** holds 11 national awards from the Magnet Schools for America, including Merit School of Distinction in 2024.

For more information, visit
rcboe.org/choice.

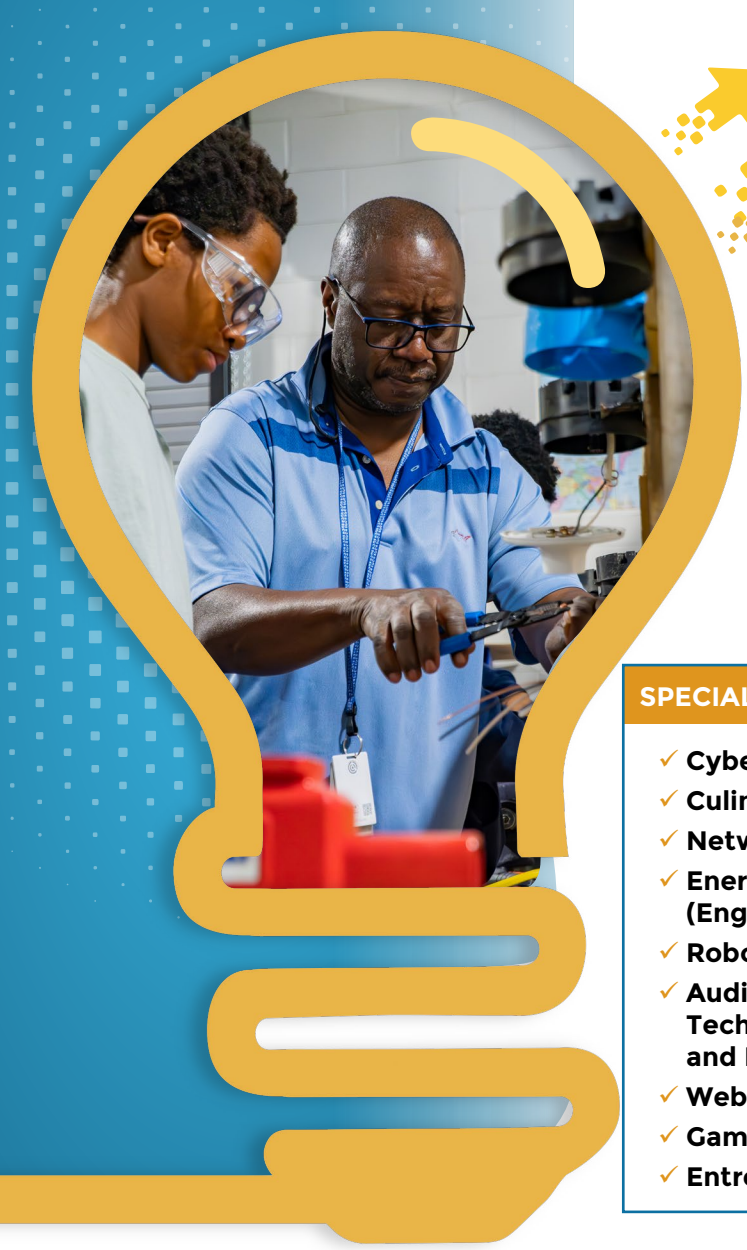


Scan to Apply Davidson!

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

- Self-disciplined students who are motivated to achieve
- Students who can specialize and advance in a specific area of study
- Students who can balance artistic expression with rigorous academic preparation

Davidson ranked at #124 nationally out of 27,000 U.S. public schools according to U.S. News and World Report.



Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School (RCTCM)

RCTCM is a magnet school serving students in grades 6–12. Students are admitted on selective criteria based upon prior school record, academic testing, and interest in computer science and technology fields. **RCTCM** is a next-door neighbor to Augusta Technical College, and 40% of juniors and seniors participate in Dual Enrollment.

For more information, visit

rcboe.org/choice.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ Cybersecurity
- ✓ Culinary Arts
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Energy (Engineering)
- ✓ Robotics
- ✓ Audio/visual Technology and Film
- ✓ Web Design
- ✓ Game Design
- ✓ Entrepreneurship

RCTCM STEM teacher Thomas Gonzales was named a 2027 Teacher of the Year finalist.

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

- Ambitious students aiming to advance their academic careers by gaining real-world skills
- Those who prefer hands-on learning and practical application of knowledge
- Students who aspire to develop skills in emerging technical industries

Scan to Watch Video

rcboe.info/2026toty

Scan to Apply RCTCM!

Special Programs & Coursework

Academy for Advanced Placement Studies

Advanced Placement (AP) Studies are designed to expose our high school students to rigorous, and accelerated curriculum. Successful candidates are challenged with opportunities in abstract thinking, problem-solving, and the use of higher-order thinking skills. Students who take **AP** classes are highly engaged and are working at least one grade level ahead of other students in their age group.

While all **RCSS** high schools offer **AP** courses, some schools are designated **AP** Academy schools. The Academy employs a schoolwide enrichment model and uses project-based, hands-on instructional techniques. The curriculum in these classes also helps prepare students who are interested in going to college after graduation. Completion of **AP** courses looks great on college applications, and upon completion of the program, students can receive an **AP** diploma.



Think It's A Fit For You?

Contact your school's counselor to learn more and apply.



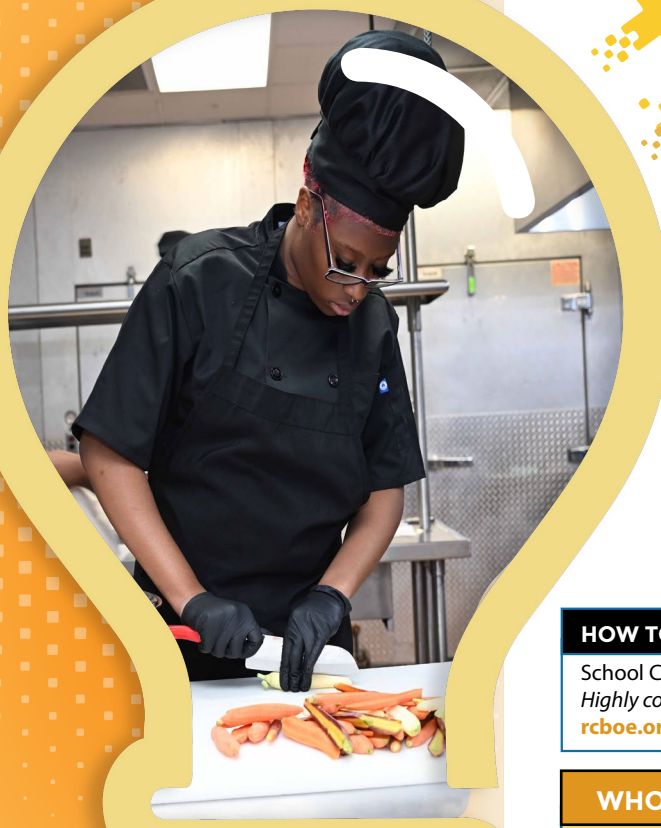
AP SCHOOLS

- Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School
- Westside Comprehensive High School

The following schools received 2026 Georgia Department of Education AP Honor School awards: ARC High, ARJ Magnet, Glenn Hills High, Davidson Fine Arts Magnet, Hephzibah High, Lucy C. Laney High , RCTCM and T.W. Josey High.

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

- Highly engaged, abstract thinkers
- Self-motivated students with a desire to excel
- Intellectually curious and critical thinkers
- Students willing to commit to college-level work



Culinary Cohort

at Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School (RCTCM)

Think It's A Fit For You?

HOW TO APPLY:

School Choice Application
Highly competitive program
rcboe.org/choice

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

- Students who love to create and experiment in the kitchen
- Hands-on learners who enjoy cooking and working with their hands
- Students interested in restaurants, hospitality, events, or catering

Students who love to create, experiment, cook, and work with their hands will thrive in the **Culinary Arts** Program at Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School. As part of a specialized **Culinary Cohort,** students train in a professional teaching kitchen and gain hands-on experience alongside a credentialed chef, building the technical, safety, and craft skills needed to succeed in a professional kitchen. Built around Georgia's statewide **Culinary Arts** curriculum, the program leads to industry-recognized credentials, including ServSafe food safety certification, along with opportunities for Work-Based Learning and real-world experience in food service environments. This program is the ideal fit for students who want more than a taste of culinary world–whether their goal is a career in restaurants, hospitality, catering, or food service management, or a head start on a culinary degree, the **Culinary Arts Cohort** turns their passion for food into a professional launchpad before they even graduate.

PROGRAM/SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

HANDS-ON LEARNING

Classroom instruction paired with real kitchen experience—cooking, plating, and problem-solving

INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS

ServSafe Food Handler/ Manager, National ProStart, and CPR/First Aid

CTSO OPPORTUNITIES

FCCLA offers culinary STAR Events, leadership development, and peer connections

College Credit

Partnerships with Augusta Technical College and other TCSG institutions lead to college credit or a Technical Certificate of Credit

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ Barbering
- ✓ Carpentry
- ✓ Cosmetology
- ✓ Fine Furniture
- ✓ HVACR Electrical
- ✓ Low Voltage Electrical
- ✓ Masonry
- ✓ Nail Technology
- ✓ Plumbing
- ✓ Welding



Marion E. Barnes
Career Center

The Marion E. Barnes Career Center offers two career tracks, Construction and Human Services, serving a diverse student body across the Richmond County School System. Through real-world training, students earn industry-recognized credentials, skills, and professional networks that lead to college, apprenticeships, licensure, and employment.

The Construction track provides hands-on skilled trades training with direct connections to union partners and company recruiters. Students attend our skilled trades center for specialized coursework and full industrial immersion. Graduates earn certifications, enter apprenticeships, or step into high-paying careers.



The Human Services track turns creative passion into a licensed profession. Students serve clients in a live, professional salon while earning state-approved credentials through the Georgia State Board of Cosmetology and Barbers. Eligible students gain paid work-based learning in local salons and shops, building a clientele before graduation. With a 100% licensure exam pass rate last year, this track prepares aspiring cosmetologists, barbers, and nail technicians to launch their own businesses.

7 graduates from the Class of 2026 are now employed in welding, pipe fitting, HVAC or electrical careers, with reported annual earnings of $40,000–$80,000.

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

- Hands-on learners who enjoy learning by doing
- Students who want to graduate with career-ready skills and industry credentials
- Students interested in earning a license, certification or apprenticeship opportunity while in high school
- Students who want to build connections with potential employers and prepare for the workforce



Cyber Academy of Excellence

Think It's A Fit For You?

Scan to Apply
Cyber Academy
rcboe.org/choice

The Cyber Academy of Excellence is open to students from both our traditional and magnet high schools who wish to pursue cybersecurity training while seeking industry certification.

Students are provided transportation to the **Cyber Academy of Excellence** at the **Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School.**

Cyber Academy of Excellence students have the opportunity to prepare for the CompTIA Security+ Certification while earning college credits and following the guidelines of dual enrollment students.

The program delivers a technically focused, security-related curriculum explicitly designed to address fast-growing careers in cybersecurity and computer science. The interdisciplinary nature of the program allows potential students to develop deep technological skills and an understanding of the business, managerial, and administrative elements of networking and coding principles.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Students considered for the Cyber Academy of Excellence should:

- Pass the Georgia Milestones and perform at or above grade level in reading/ELA and mathematics
- Score at or above grade level on STAR Reading and Math Assessment when used in place of Georgia Milestones
- Demonstrate positive behavior with minimal disciplinary referrals
- Demonstrate strong work habits, including responsibility, persistence and the ability to work independently.
- Be on track to graduate

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

- Students who enjoy working with computers and digital platforms
- High school students who are passionate about cybersecurity and computer science
- Students who are responsible, persistent and comfortable working independently

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ Dance
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Theatre Arts
- ✓ Visual Arts
- ✓ Performance Opportunities Outside the Classroom

Visual and Performing Arts



Visual and Performing Arts programs develop a student's talents and passion for the arts.

Students receive specialized instruction in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. As part of a strong academic program, the arts are approached through education, integration, and exposure.

At the elementary level, students receive weekly classes in each of the four arts disciplines, as well as arts-integrated instruction in grade-based classrooms.

Students continuing to middle and high school programs receive more rigorous, intensive instruction in the **Visual and Performing Arts** specific to their area of interest.

Think It's A Fit For You?

Apply Now:
rcboe.org/choice

Davidson won the Region 4-AA one-act play competition for the second year in a row during the 2023–2024 school year.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOLS

- Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School
- Garrett Elementary School
- Hephzibah Elementary School
- Warren Road Elementary School

John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

- Students committed to developing personal artistic abilities
- Students who desire to participate in artistic exhibitions and performances
- Students who work well independently and in groups
- Students willing to receive constructive feedback for continued growth in the arts



Reaching Potential Through Manufacturing (RPM)

Reaching Potential through Manufacturing (RPM) is an exciting partnership between Textron Specialized Vehicles Inc. and the **Richmond County School System**. This innovative program gives students a unique opportunity to catch up on their high school credits while earning an income and gaining hands-on work experience in a real manufacturing environment.

With over 100 students enrolled, **RPM** combines classroom learning with a four-hour shift at a facility producing parts for top brands like E-Z Go©, Cushman©, Textron Off Road©, TUG™, and Douglas™ brands.

Beyond the manufacturing floor, students also receive comprehensive support services, including therapeutic counseling, resumé building, interview preparation, and money management, all designed to equip them with the skills needed for long-term success as they work toward their high school diplomas.

Think It's A Fit For You?

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

- Those who are interested in manufacturing careers
- Students who can balance academics while working a real-life manufacturing job

See school counselor or administrator for referral.

Scan to Apply RPM!



Performance Learning Center



The **Performance Learning Center (PLC)** and PLC @ Home are non-traditional programs in our school system that offer in-person and at-home virtual learning options for students.

The school promotes high academic standards through the implementation of the curriculum set forth by the Georgia Department of Education and the expectations of the **Richmond County School System. PLC** provides a place where all students are challenged and expected to be responsible for their education; in this setting, teachers serve as learning facilitators.

The **Performance Learning Center** offers a strong curriculum with more than 100 possible course selections in math, science, language arts, social studies, visual art, physical education, and the Entrepreneurship Pathway in CTAE.

While attending PLC, students will master the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for success in technical school, college, the military, or the workforce.

Think It's A Fit For You?



HOW TO APPLY:

See school counselor or administrator for referral

Congratulations to Tameika Stokeling from Freedom Park K-8 School on being selected as the 2026–2027 Richmond County School System Teacher of the Year.

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

- Independent, motivated students
- Students with strong computer skills
- Students who wish to complete their coursework online rather than through a traditional approach



International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate (IB) program is a rigorous program of study geared towards elementary, middle and high school students. The program focuses on critical thinking and international mindedness. Designed to reinforce a positive attitude, the **IB** program teaches students to ask challenging questions, reflect critically, develop research skills, and learn how to learn. The continuum of education spans from kindergarten to 12th grade. **IB** schools maintain high standards by actively training and supporting teachers in the **IB** curriculum. **IB** schools are evaluated and authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization in order to receive **IB** World School designation.

PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME (PYP)

For K-5th grade students, the **PYP** nurtures and develops learners who are caring and active participants in a lifelong journey of learning. The **PYP** is an example of best educational practices globally, responding to the challenges and opportunities facing students in our rapidly changing world. By learning through inquiry and reflecting on their own learning, **PYP** students develop the knowledge, conceptual understandings, skills, and attributes of the **IB** Learner Profile to make a difference in their own lives, their communities, and beyond.

OUR IB SCHOOLS	
▪ Academy of Richmond County (ARC)	▪ Hephzibah Elementary School
▪ Copeland Elementary School	▪ Hephzibah Middle School
▪ Hephzibah Comprehensive High School	▪ Lake Forest Hills Elementary School
	▪ Langford-Tutt Middle School

MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP)

For grades 6–10, the **MYP** emphasizes the learning profile and focuses on an intensive study of core subjects while integrating concept-based learning through global contexts. **MYP** students complete community activities and service hours; a personal project is the culminating assessment for the program.

DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (DP)

For 11–12th grade students, **DP** is a two-year curriculum and among the most academically rigorous programs offered at the **Academy of Richmond County (ARC)**. The program emphasizes intellectual and international understanding, responsible citizenship, and community service. Students are encouraged to sit for international exams with the opportunity to earn the **IB** Diploma and are also required to complete Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) hours, the Theory of Knowledge Course, and an Extended Essay.

CAREER-RELATED PROGRAMME (CRP)

The IB Career-Related Programme is a rigorous 11th and 12th grade curriculum available at **ARC** that prepares students to enter college or the workforce. Students choose a career pathway, such as engineering or cybersecurity. In addition, **CRP** students take a selection of rigorous **IB** courses and engage in service learning, language acquisition, and reflection and investigation into ethical issues in their fields of study. Students who successfully complete the programme requirements earn the **IB** Career-Related Certificate and may also earn college credit.



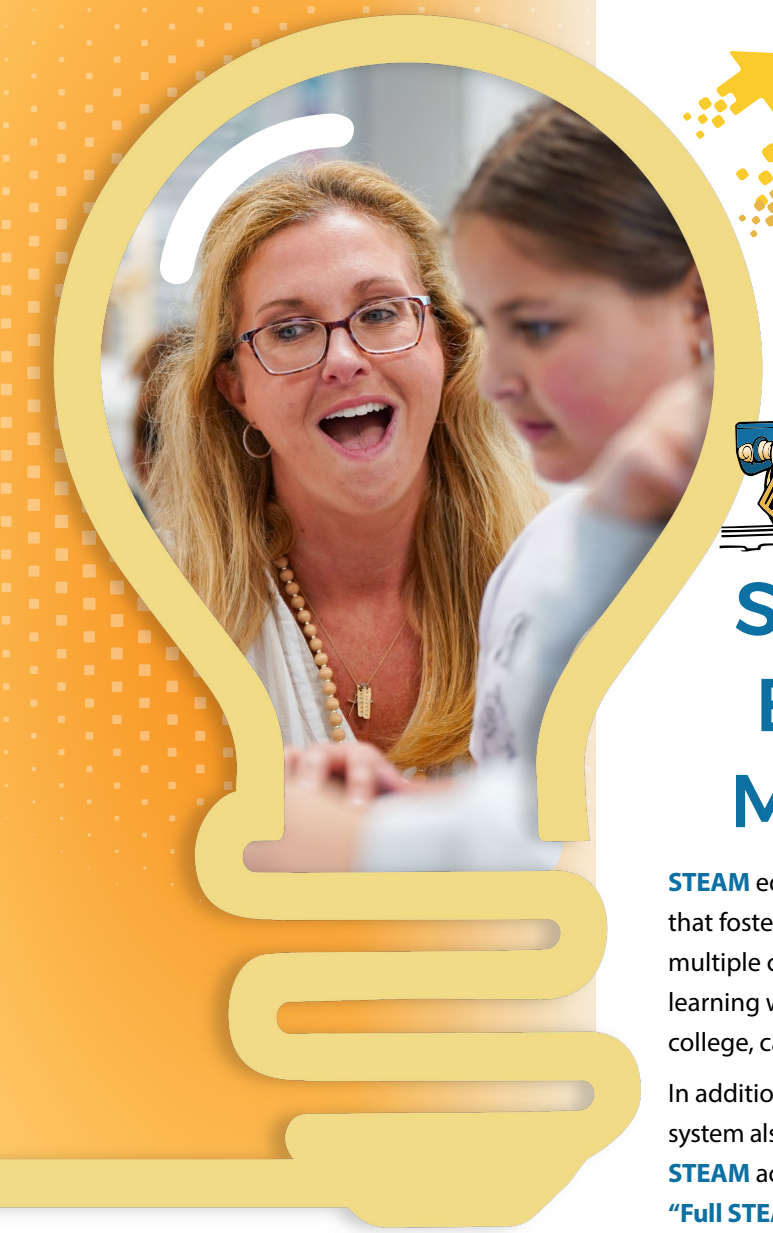
Visit rcboe.org/choice or scan QR code to learn more.



Think It's A Fit For You?

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

- Students with reading, writing, and mathematical skills at or above grade level
- Students with effective time management skills and basic computer skills
- Self-directed learners who are motivated and independent
- Caring, balanced, and open-minded students
- Students who are willing to take risks while maintaining principles





Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics (STEAM)

STEAM education is an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning that fosters creativity, innovation, and real-world problem-solving across multiple content areas. It helps students understand the purpose behind their learning while developing the knowledge and skills needed for success in college, careers, and the modern workforce.

In addition to **STEAM** courses offered in schools, our school system also offers opportunities for all students to engage in **STEAM** activities year-round through our **"Full STEAM Ahead"** initiative.

For more information, visit rcboe.org/steam.

Scan QR Code to Learn More.

Think It's A Fit For You?

WHO IS BEST SUITED?
Students who are Intellectually curious and critical thinkers
Students who thrive in environments that encourage exploration
Students who respond to problem-solving with fluency, flexibility and originality

STEM & STEAM SCHOOLS
Goshen Elementary School
A. Dorothy Hains Elementary School
A.R. Johnson Health Science & Engineering Magnet School

Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE)



Career Technical & Agricultural Education (CTAE) gives your student hands-on training toward high-skill, high-wage careers. Georgia is ranked the #1 state for workforce-ready career education and invests $1 billion dollars to support students. Richmond County students are graduating with real-world experience, college/university credits, industry credentials, and a head start on life after high school.

Program Highlights

Georgia offers two diploma pathways that let CTAE students earn college and career credentials alongside their high school diploma, at no added cost to families.

Accelerated Career Diploma (ACD): Students earn two related Technical College Credentials (TCCs) within a career pathway while in high school, through a partnership with the Technical College System of Georgia. Georgia's ACE Grant covers tuition, so students graduate debt-free with both a diploma and a college credential (a technical certificate, diploma, or associate degree). Starting salaries in these high-demand fields typically range from $30,000 to $50,000.

Work-Based Learning Diploma: New for 2026–27, this diploma meets Georgia's full 23-credit requirement. Coursework centers on two High-Demand CTAE or Academic Career Pathways plus at least four work-based learning courses in a paid, pathway-related position. It's designed for students heading straight into a high-demand career, apprenticeship, or the workforce after graduation.

Scan to Apply CTAE!

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ **Advanced Manufacturing**
- ✓ **Agriculture**
- ✓ **Arts, Entertainment, & Design**
- ✓ **Construction**
- ✓ **Digital Technology**
- ✓ **Education**
- ✓ **Energy & Natural Resources**
- ✓ **Financial Services**
- ✓ **Healthcare & Human Services**
- ✓ **Hospitality, Events, & Tourism**
- ✓ **Management & Entrepreneurship**
- ✓ **Marketing & Sales**
- ✓ **Public Service & Safety**
- ✓ **Supply Chain & Transportation**

CTAE Student Highlights

- **98% graduation rate:** Nearly every pathway completer graduates on time.
- **98% placement:** Completers move into jobs, further education, or the military.
- **Earn while you learn:** More than 300 students currently hold paid positions through Work-Based Learning.
- **150+ paid summer internships:** Offered through Students2Work, a partnership with the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce.

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

- Students who learn best by doing—hands-on, real-world training connected to a future career.
- Students who want to start exploring careers early
- Students interested in a paid internship, job shadow, or youth apprenticeship while still in high school.
- Students who want to graduate with an industry credential — not just a diploma.

CTAE Clusters by School

A.R. Johnson Health Science & Engineering Magnet School

- **Advanced Manufacturing**
  - Engineering & Technology
- **Digital Technology**
  - Programming
- **Healthcare & Human Services**
  - Therapeutic Services – Allied Health and Medicine
  - Therapeutic Services: Patient Care

Academy of Richmond County High School

- **Advanced Manufacturing**
  - Engineering & Technology
- **Digital Technology**
  - Cybersecurity
- **Education**
  - Teaching As A Profession
- **Healthcare & Human Services**
  - Personal Care Services-Cosmetology
- **Hospitality, Events, & Tourism**
  - Culinary Arts
- **Public Safety and Services**
  - Army JROTC

Alternative School at Morgan Road

- **Workforce Ready**
  - Workforce Ready

Cross Creek Comprehensive High School

- **Agriculture**
  - Plant and Floriculture Systems
  - Plant and Landscape System
- **Digital Technology**
  - Computer Science
  - Web & Digital Design
- **Education**
  - Teaching As a Profession
- **Healthcare & Human Services**
  - Nutrition and Food Science
- **Marketing & Sales**
  - Fashion Merchandising, & Retail
- **Public Safety and Services**
  - Navy JROTC
- **Supply Chain & Transportation**
  - Unmanned Aircraft Systems & Flight Operations

Cyber Academy of Excellence

- **Digital Technology**
  - Cybersecurity
  - Game Design
  - Programming

George P. Butler Comprehensive High School

- **Arts, Entertainment, & Design**
  - Audio-Video Technology and Film I
- **Digital Technology**
  - Web & Digital Design
- **Healthcare & Human Services**
  - Nutrition & Food Science
  - Personal Care Services-Cosmetology
- **Public Safety and Services**
  - Marine Corps JROTC

Glenn Hills Comprehensive High School

- **Education & Training**
  - Teaching As A Profession
- **Healthcare & Human Services**
  - Personal Care Services-Cosmetology
- **Management & Entrepreneurship**
  - Business and Technology
- **Marketing & Sales**
  - Marketing and Management
  - Sports and Entertainment Marketing
- **Public Safety and Services**
  - Navy JROTC
- **Supply Chain & Transportation**
  - Unmanned Aircraft Systems & Flight Operations

Hephzibah Comprehensive High School

- **Agriculture**
  - Plant and Landscape Systems
- **Construction**
  - Sheet Metal
  - Welding
- **Digital Technology**
  - Web & Digital Design
- **Financial Services**
  - Financial Services
- **Healthcare & Human Services**
  - Personal Care Services-Cosmetology
- **Public Safety and Services**
  - Army JROTC
- **Supply Chain & Transportation**
  - General Automotive Technology

John S. Davidson Magnet School

◀ **Arts, Entertainment, & Design**
- Audio-Video Technology and Film I
- Audio-Video Technology and Film II

Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School

◀ **Healthcare & Human Services**
- Personal Care Services-Cosmetology

◀ **Marketing & Sales**
- Marketing and Management

◀ **Public Safety and Services**
- Army JROTC
- Criminal Investigations

◀ **Supply Chain & Transportation**
- General Automotive Technology

Marion E. Barnes Career Center

◀ **Construction**
- Carpentry
- Electrical
- HVAC Electrical
- Masonry
- Plumbing
- Welding

◀ **Healthcare & Human Services**
- Personal Care Services-Barbering
- Personal Care Services-Cosmetology
- Personal Care Services-Nails

Reaching Potential Through Manufacturing (RPM)

◀ **Advanced Manufacturing**
- Manufacturing

Key to Symbols:

◀ **2026-2027 Career Clusters**
- Pathways

Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School

◀ **Advanced Manufacturing**
- Electronics

◀ **Arts, Entertainment, & Design**
- Audio Visual Technology & Film I
- Audio Visual Technology & Film II

◀ **Digital Technology**
- Networking
- Programming
- Web & Digital Design

◀ **Energy & Natural Resources**
- Energy Systems

◀ **Hospitality, Events, & Tourism**
- Culinary Arts

T.W. Josey Comprehensive High School

◀ **Financial Services**
- Financial Services

◀ **Marketing**
- Marketing and Management
- Sports and Entertainment Marketing

◀ **Public Safety and Services**
- Air Force JROTC

Westside Comprehensive High School

◀ **Advanced Manufacturing**
- Engineering & Technology

◀ **Education**
- Teaching As a Profession

◀ **Healthcare & Human Services**
- Diagnostics: Phlebotomy
- Nutrition & Food Science

◀ **Hospitality, Events, & Tourism**
- Hospitality, Recreation & Tourism

◀ **Marketing & Sales**
- Fashion, Merchandising & Retail

◀ **Public Safety and Services**
- Navy JROTC



Work-Based Learning/Apprenticeships

Work-Based Learning (WBL) is Richmond County's structured pathway for turning classroom learning into real career experience. Starting with career awareness and exploration, WBL guides students through preparation and hands-on training that builds both employability skills like communication, teamwork, and professionalism with the technical skills tied to their chosen career field.

Rather than just learning about a career, students learn by doing it: working alongside professionals, applying what they study in class to real tasks on the job, and earning course credit for supervised work experience. This structured, authentic connection between school and the workplace gives students a head start, whether students are headed straight into the workforce, an apprenticeship, or college/university after high school.

Think It's A Fit For You?

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

- **Age & Grade Level:** at least 16 years old, in grades 10–12
- **On Track Academically:** passing courses, in good standing on attendance and conduct, and on track to graduate
- **Ready to work:** currently employed, or has a confirmed job placement connected to their CTAE pathway
- **Reliable transportation:** a valid license, insurance, and a dependable way to get to and from the worksite
- **Ready to commit:** willing to complete the required application, training agreement, and parental approval, and to join their pathway's student organization (CTSO)

HOW TO APPLY:

See your School Counselor for more information about Work-Based Learning.

Program/School Highlights

150+ PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

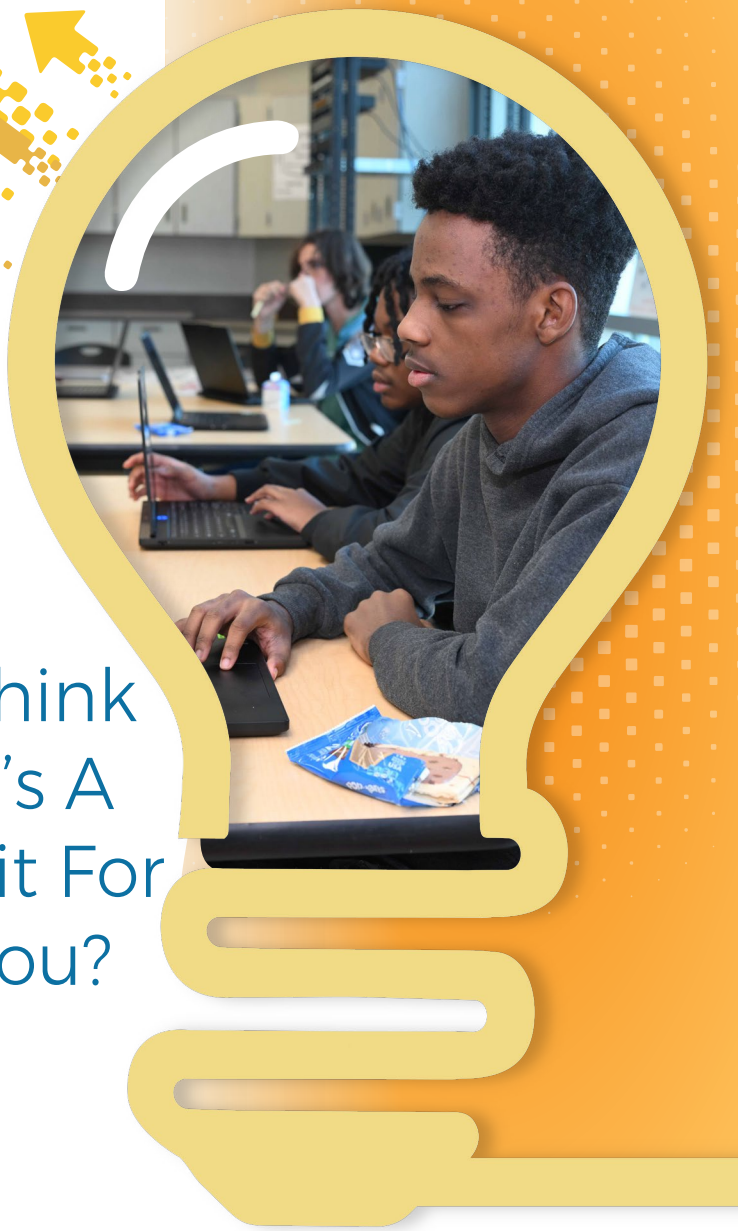
awarded through Students2Work Programs.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

more than 300 students are currently working in paid, real-world positions through WBL

Dual Enrollment

Earn College Credit in High School!



WHAT IS DUAL ENROLLMENT?

Dual Enrollment gives Georgia high school students the chance to take college-level coursework while still in high school. Credits earned count toward both a student's high school diploma and a college transcript — giving them a genuine head start before they ever graduate. The state covers tuition, mandatory fees, and required textbooks for eligible students, so families don't pay out of pocket for the coursework itself.

Georgia offers two Dual Enrollment paths, and coursework can be taken at either a University System of Georgia (USG) institution or a Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) institution. Traditional Dual Enrollment fits students planning to attend a four-year college after high school, while still meeting all of Georgia's typical high school graduation requirements. The Accelerated Career Diploma is built for students planning to attend a technical college or move directly into the workforce after graduating.

Think It's A Fit For You?

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All Georgia high school students are eligible for Dual Enrollment if they meet the following:

- **Grade level:** in 10th grade or higher. (10th graders may take any CTAE course through Dual Enrollment; only 10th graders with a qualifying SAT or ACT score at the Zell Miller Scholarship level may take Academic Dual Enrollment courses — English, math, social studies, science, and world languages.)
- **Enrolled at a participating school:** public, private, and homeschool students are all eligible if their school participates.
- **Admitted to a participating college:** students must be admitted to a participating postsecondary institution.
- **Georgia residency:** students must be a legal resident of the state of Georgia.

GaDual DE Enrollment

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested families should start the conversation with their student's school counselor.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

EARN DUAL CREDIT

Counts Toward Both Transcripts Simultaneously

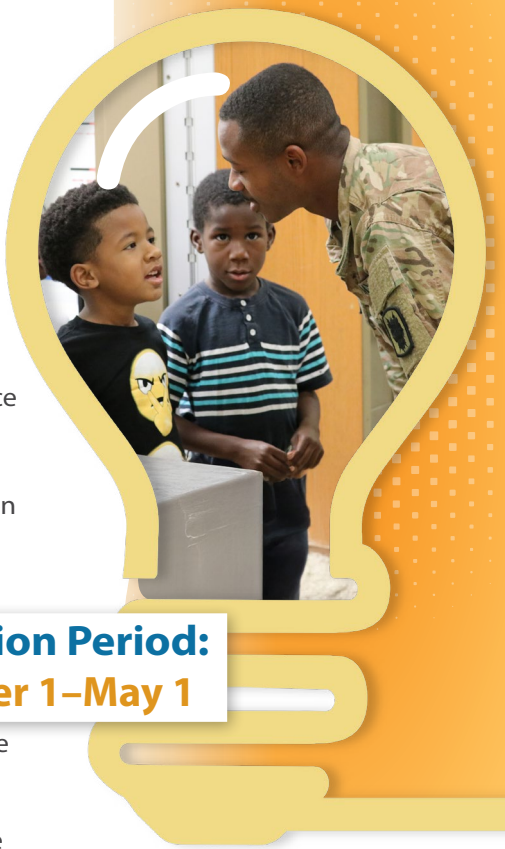
STATE-FUNDED

No Charge for Tuition, Fees, and Required Textbooks

TWO PATHS

Traditional or Accelerated Career Diploma

School Zone Exemptions & Military Families House Bill 251



Under state law (OCGA 20–2–2131), parents may request a transfer to another public school within their local school district to specified schools and grades designated as having available space. Each year, the school system identifies schools with available space and accepts applications from families requesting a transfer under this law. **Applications are accepted November 1–May 1 each year.** Remaining seats will be available for applications **July 1–August 16.** The list of schools with space available and the application can be found at **rcboe.org/choice**. In the Richmond County School System, any school with an enrollment below 80% capacity is considered a participating school.

If a parent chooses to transfer a child to another school, Georgia law requires the parent assume all costs and responsibilities related to the transportation of the child to and from school, as long as the child remains at the school. If a parent does not enroll their child/children in the school they are approved to attend by the first week of school, the **House Bill 251** becomes obsolete.

Application Period: November 1–May 1

In addition, any change of school placement which is not the result of a bona fide change of residency may impact a student's eligibility to participate in Georgia High School Association sanctioned varsity activities and events for one calendar year. The parent or legal guardian is responsible for investigating and determining such impact on eligibility. Therefore, parents and guardians must make individual decisions about the consequences of accepting permissive transfers.

Scan here to hear more about House Bill 251

Visit **rcboe.org/hb251** to learn more.

Think It's A Fit For You?

House Bill 224 For Military Families



Effective July 1, 2017, Georgia **House Bill 224** allows military families to attend any public school located within the school system where the military base or off-base military housing in which the student resides is located, provided space is available for additional enrollment.

Each year, the school system identifies schools with available space and accepts applications for military families to attend these schools. The list of schools with available space and the application can be found on the school system website **rcboe.org/choice.**

Upon arrival, military families should enroll in their zoned school and complete the application to request a **HB224** transfer.

1. Enroll your child(ren) in their Richmond County zoned school.
2. Visit our website **rcboe.org/choice** and complete the online application to request a HB 224 transfer. The application to request a transfer must be completed within 30 days of enrollment.
3. In the event the number of transfer requests exceeds the available capacity in a particular school, requests will be approved based on the order in which they are received.
4. Parents and guardians will be notified of approval or denial by the email address provided on the application.
5. Once a request is approved, the parent/guardian assumes all costs and responsibilities related to transportation of their child to and from school so long as the child remains at the assigned school.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply for School Choice AND Magnet Schools?

Yes. Parents can apply to both and then select the desired school if accepted to both. Decisions for the **2027–2028** enrollment must be made in the spring.

Can I apply if I don't live in Richmond County, Georgia?

Yes, one may apply, but a student must be a resident of Richmond County at the time of registration in order to enroll. Students who are unable to provide proof of residency will forfeit their acceptance.

Can I make a correction to my application once it has been submitted?

Changes can be made to the application between **November 1, 2026,** through **January 8, 2027.** Parents can access the application using the account created during the application process.

Why do I have to provide my child's zoned school?

Once accepted into a magnet program, this information is used to alert the zoned school that the student will not be attending next year. This information helps us accurately staff our schools. A student's zoned school is not shared with the admissions team.

If my child is currently enrolled in a Richmond County, can I find their student identification number in Parent Portal?

Yes. If you have an active account in Parent Portal, your child's student identification number appears in the top left information box under the name of the school. The number typically begins with the digits 300.

Do I need to submit teacher recommendations?

Teacher recommendation letters are no longer a part of the application process.

Can I submit a paper application instead of applying online?

All applications must be completed online. Assistance will be available every **Monday through Friday, 8am–5pm** during the months of **November and December** by calling **(706) 826-1136 or emailing haddebr@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us.**

Where/when will my child take the academic test?

During the application process, you will select a preferred testing date, time, and location. Your child will take the test at the location and will be considered for the program you selected, regardless of test location.

Can my child attend a magnet school and participate in sports and/or extracurricular activities at their zoned school?

Students who are enrolled in a magnet school may not participate in sports and/or extracurricular activities at their zoned school or any other school. Richmond County Board of Education policy states that to be eligible for participation in athletics, an individual must be enrolled full-time in the school that sponsors the competitive activity. Students may participate in sports and/or extra-curricular activities that are offered at the school they are attending.

How can I prepare my child for the magnet grades 1–12 testing?

Students applying for grades 1–12 will take a computerized Reading and Math assessment that will generate a Lexile and Quantile score. Students considered for admissions must perform on-grade level or higher. For more information about both measures, please visit **lexile.com or quantiles. com.** To best prepare your students, review the Georgia reading and math educational standards for your child's grade level. Students should arrive 30 minutes prior to testing for check- in. Students applying to grades 1–12 should bring their own pencils and headphones for testing. Students will be allowed to use the restroom and stretch between the two tests.

What will my child need to bring to the academic test?

Students applying to grades 1–12 should bring a pencil. Students applying to kindergarten do not need to bring any materials.

Do I need to remain at the school while my student takes the test?

Parents will need to remain on campus in the waiting area. Since each student works at his or her own pace, testing times may vary between 45 minutes and 3 hours.

Can my child be tested for kindergarten even if she is not yet old enough?

According to Georgia state law, students enrolling in kindergarten must reach the age of 5 by **September 1.**

If my child is gifted, do they still need to participate in the testing?

Yes, all applicants must participate in testing.

Why do I have to indicate my child's gifted status?

This information is shared with the receiving school after the student has been accepted to ensure that gifted services are in place once the student arrives in the fall. This information is a voluntary portion of the application. Parents who do not wish to reveal this information on the application are not required. This information is not shared with the admissions team.

Can I change my mind about transportation?

Yes. If you change your mind, please let the school know during your March pre-registration meeting.

If my child is accepted, can they start now?

This application process is for the 2027–2028 school year.

Scan here to learn more about applying for School Choice.

Richmond County Board of Education
864 Broad Street
Augusta, GA 30901
(706) 826-1000

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2027–2028 School Choice Guide

rcboe.org/choice

Application Dates



MAGNET SCHOOLS AND SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS FALL/WINTER APPLICATION PERIOD

November 1, 2026: Applications open for magnet schools and specialized programs at 8 a.m.

November and December 2026: Schools host open house events for interested families

January 8, 2027: Deadline to apply during Fall and Winter Application Period

January 27 and 30, 2027: Academic testing sessions held

February 12, 2027: Davidson Fine Arts auditions held *(must receive an invitation to attend)*

March 5, 2027: Decision letters e-mailed at 5 p.m.

SPRING APPLICATION TIMELINE FOR MAGNET AND SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

April 1–May 1, 2027: Spring Application Period

May 15, 2027: Spring Academic testing sessions held

May 27, 2027: Davidson Fine Arts auditions held
(must receive an invitation to attend)

June 5, 2027: Decision letters e-mailed

HOUSE BILL 251 APPLICATION PERIOD

November 1, 2026–May 1, 2027: Decision letters e-mailed

Start Your Application Today!

NOTE: Only programs with available space will be listed as options during the spring application window. Military families with PCS orders that arrive in Augusta between May 1, 2027 through July 15, 2027 should contact the Central Office at (706) 826-1136.

Richmond County School System

RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
School Choice 2027–2028

Bright Minds. Boundless Possibilities. Empowering Every Learner Every Day.