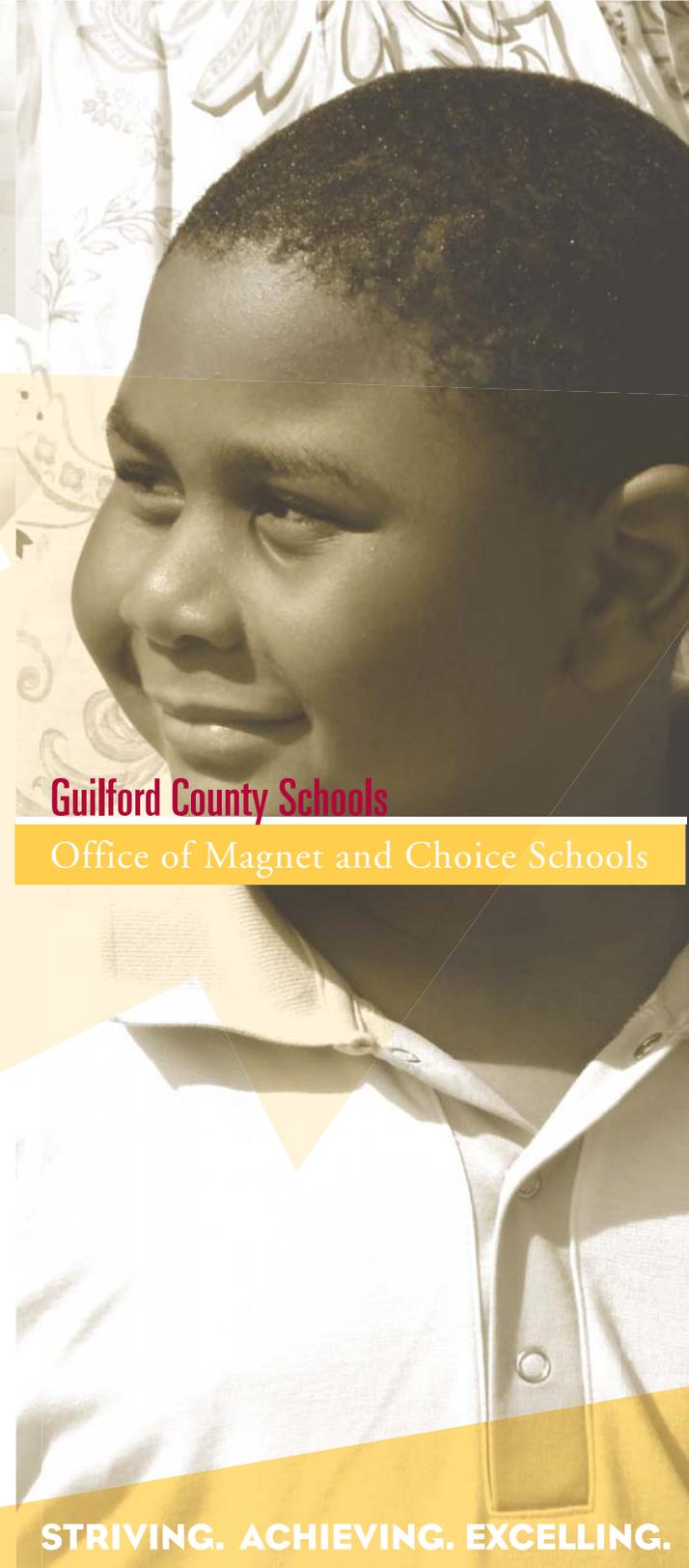


Guilford County Schools (GCS)

is pleased to provide parents and guardians a wide variety of choices to meet the educational needs of their children - choices that build on or stimulate educational interests, foster academic achievement and provide cultural and ethnic diversity. Choosing the best school for their children is one of the most important decisions parents and guardians must make.

GCS offers parents, guardians and students with educational choices not often found in public school systems. Because students can potentially disengage from learning long before they drop out of school, the Office of Magnet and Choice Schools aims to provide focused programs and schools that will keep students connected to learning, keep them in school and prepare them for the future.



Guilford County Schools

Office of Magnet and Choice Schools

Office of Magnet and Choice Schools
120 Franklin Blvd.
Greensboro, NC 27401
336.378.8832

www.gcsnc.com/magnet

In compliance with federal laws, Guilford County Schools administers all educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law. Refer to the Board of Education's Discrimination Free Environment Policy AC for a complete statement. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to the Guilford County Schools Compliance Officer, 120 Franklin Blvd., Greensboro, NC 27401; 336.370.2323.



**Guilford
County Schools**

STRIVING. ACHIEVING. EXCELLING.



Magnet Schools and High School Options in Guilford County

Special school programs were developed in Greensboro City Schools during the 1970's as a way to offer school choice and as a part of the district's desegregation plan. These schools embraced various educational philosophies and themes. In the early 1970's, Erwin Elementary and Peeler Elementary offered Open Education. In the late 1980's, Jones Elementary began a Spanish Immersion program, and Morehead Elementary implemented a cultural arts program. By the early 1990's, Greensboro City Schools acquired a federal Magnet School Assistance Program grant to open Brooks Global Studies Extended-Year Magnet School.

In 1993, Greensboro City Schools, High Point City Schools and GCS merged to become one district. Since then, GCS has become a national leader in providing specialized schools and instructional programs designed to meet the educational needs of a culturally diverse citizenship. From kindergarten through twelfth grades, students participate in magnet and choice schools while pursuing academic interests in special learning environments.

The Office of Magnet and Choice Schools provides services to families and schools by:

- partnering with the Office of Student Assignment to conduct a centralized magnet admissions process;
- disseminating program and application information to parents, guardians, and students through a variety of means (e.g. newspapers, schools and the GCS Web site);
- meeting with students, parents, guardians and community groups about programs and application procedures;
- organizing district-wide magnet and high school options fairs;
- supporting schools and their staff in the implementation of magnet philosophies, themes, and professional development;
- coordinating efforts with Curriculum and Instruction to ensure that magnet programs maintain high standards and rigorous curricula;

- exploring new school and program ideas in an effort to expand existing magnet offerings; and
- collaborating with private and independent schools, colleges, universities and various organizations to develop ideas and share resources.

What are magnet and choice schools?

These schools:

- offer magnet schools for students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade and high school options for students in grades nine through 12,
- feature areas of specialization, such as themes or philosophies of teaching and learning,
- attract students from across the district, and
- eliminate, reduce or prevent minority group isolation.

Why magnet and choice schools?

These schools:

- improve academic achievement (i.e., meet challenging academic content standards and student academic achievement standards),
- provide school choice for parents, guardians and students, and
- promote and maintain diversity.

What is unique about magnet and choice schools?

At the elementary and middle school levels, each magnet school emphasizes a specialized theme or adheres to a special philosophy of teaching and learning. The application process is open to all students who wish to apply. Acceptance into a magnet school is based on a random selection process. All schools follow a curriculum set by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Magnet schools, however,

provide unique opportunities for in-depth study and enrichment experiences in specific areas of interest such as math, science, the arts, world language and communications. Also, subjects in the core curriculum are taught with a focus on the school's theme. These experiences greatly expand a student's exposure to particular areas of interest beyond those available in non-magnet schools.

At the high school level, the options provide an opportunity for advanced learning, as well as the chance to gain hands-on experience prior to entering the workforce or university setting. Each high school option has unique entrance criteria. Contact coordinators or principals for their criteria. Acceptance into high school option programs is based on students meeting the criteria for the individual program; this may also include interviews and/or auditions. High school options within GCS include the state's first early and middle college high schools and are as diverse as the students who attend them.

In cases where magnet schools and high school options are duplicated, the residence of the parents/guardians will determine the school to which the student is eligible to apply. To verify the appropriate schools, parents and guardians may contact the Student Assignment Office at 370-8303.

What is offered?

GCS offers magnet schools and high school options with various themes including:

- Global Studies
- Montessori
- International Baccalaureate
- Mathematics
- Science
- Technology
- Spanish Immersion
- Cultural Arts
- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts
- Construction Technology
- Engineering
- Medical Science
- And More!

GCS will make a reasonable effort to provide transportation for magnet and high school options students who are residents of Guilford County.

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