

# 2021-2022 School Choice Guidelines

Parents of applicants are invited to read this document for information and encouraged to contact the School Choice office, if there are any questions.

## Application Process

Applications must be submitted online and received by School Choice office by 4:00 p.m., February 5, 2021. All applicants must reside in the DeKalb County School District throughout the process. Every applicant must meet the eligibility criteria for the program they apply for in order to be considered for entry into lottery. Eligibility criteria is listed under the Programs tab on our website. Applicants who previously applied, but were not accepted into a School Choice Program, must reapply. **Note:** To be considered on-time, applicant must submit all supporting documents by 4:00 p.m. February 5, 2021.

## Late Applications

Any application submitted after 4:01 p.m. on February 5, 2021 will be stamped late and processed ONLY if seats are available after the students selected during initial lottery and wait listed students are placed.

## Lottery Policy

If the number of applications exceeds the projected number of open seats for any School Choice Program, a lottery will be conducted. Visit the DeKalb County School District website at <http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/school-choice> for School Choice lottery dates.

All lotteries are conducted online and the software randomly selected from each pool. If number of applicants are more than available seats, a wait list is generated.

**Note:** Kittredge and Wadsworth lotteries have a pool of applicants per school. Initial lottery is conducted to randomly pick a minimum of 3 students per school. One wait list is generated after the initial lottery and seats assigned as per the wait list number. As and when seats become available, seat placement offers are made based upon the wait list order.

## Age Requirement

Applicants applying for preschool through first grade must meet the Georgia Age of Entry requirement. The applicant must be age eligible by September 1st of the current school year.

## Attendance/Behavior

Students enrolled in any School Choice Program must abide by the DCSD and local school attendance and behavior policies and guidelines in order to continue.

- Behavior infractions – students with at least three (3) disciplinary infractions of level 3 or higher may be referred for exiting
- Attendance – students with at least five (5) unexcused absences or at least six (6) unexcused tardies may be referred for exiting

## School Choice Selections

If desired, applicants may elect to apply for more than one program on the application, a first choice, second choice or third choice. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices are not required. The second and third choice will be considered only if seats become available after the first choice random lottery. **Once a seat is accepted all other selections and waitlist will be removed.**

## Lottery Pools

**Only 1<sup>st</sup> Choices are ran in the initial lottery.** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice lotteries are ran only in the event of a school/program needing additional students to fill seats once all wait lists have been exhausted.

## Programs Requiring Standardized Test Scores for Grades 4 - 9 Eligibility

High Achiever Magnet Programs at Wadsworth, Kittredge, Chapel Hill Middle, Chamblee Middle, Southwest DeKalb, and Chamblee Charter High require eligible Standardized M.A.P. test scores to satisfy one of the eligibility requirements. (Review program description for other eligibility criteria.)

From 2016-17 onwards, DeKalb County School District (DCSD) will utilize the Northwest Evaluation Association's (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (M.A.P.). This assessment is used to determine eligibility of student applicants in grades 3-9, for entering the random School Choice High Achievers Magnet program lottery. M.A.P. replaces the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS).

Measures of Academic progress (M.A.P.) is a test administered online. DeKalb resident students who score greater than 75% RT (Reading Total) and greater than 75% MT (Math Total) on the M.A.P. assessment and has greater than a 3.0 GPA in all four core subjects will be eligible to enter the lottery with these requirements.

All enrolled DCSD K-12 students are administered the M.A.P. during the August-September test window. DCSD School Choice department also administers the M.A.P. during a separate session on a Saturday in October to students in grades 3-9 enrolled in private or home school. Information about this free special test session for private and homeschooled students is available on the School Choice website at <http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/school-choice/>.

The M.A.P. assessment is administered to current students three times per year. DCSD magnet program accepts scores from the baseline test session. **Note: Baseline test is when a student takes the M.A.P. assessment the first time each school year.** Although, the M.A.P. percentile score is valid for two years, only the baseline test score is used for determining eligibility to enter the Magnet program lottery, if applying for a High Achievers Magnet program seat placement offer.

Standardized test scores must be submitted by February 5, 2021. Students tested by a DeKalb County School District school or the School Choice Office do not have to upload test scores with the online application. Private and homeschooled applicants must upload the scores from the first M.A.P. test taken in 2020-2021.

## Transportation

The most current DeKalb County transportation policy will be followed for the School Choice Programs. During the 2021-2022 school year, students offered a seat in a Magnet program, Arabia Mountain School Career Pathway, and Champion Theme Middle School will have satellite location shuttle bus transportation service. All other school choice programs do not provide transportation. **Note:** Once parent accepts seat online, transportation information will be emailed along with the seat placement notification. Student must report to their preferred satellite pick up location and will be transported to the school and dropped off after school at the same location. Theme elementary school students are provided neighborhood transportation.

## **Withdrawal**

Withdrawal from any School Choice program will result in the loss of the seat. In order to re-enroll, it is required that a new application for lottery selection be submitted for the following school year.

## **Proof of Residence**

Proof of residency is required for students not currently enrolled in a DeKalb County Public School. In order to complete your School Choice application proper proof of residence is required. Acceptable documents are: Gas, Light, Water, or Lease/Mortgage Statement. Documents can be uploaded in your online application. If the parent or legal guardian does not have proof of residence documents in their name as listed above, then the DeKalb County School District Affidavit of Residence is required. You can obtain an Affidavit on our School Choice Home page under Forms/Brochure. Pages 2-4 of this Affidavit must be filled out correctly. The Owner/Lessee must fill out page 4 and proof of residence and a photo ID of Owner/Lessee must be submitted. Proof of residence must also be submitted in the form of a business letter from the parent's or legal guardian's place of employment or other official business letter addressed to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) at the address listed on the affidavit.

It will not be necessary for the form to be signed in the presence of a School Official since this document will be used for the purpose of a School Choice application only. The Affidavit form is located at <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/school-choice/forms-and-brochures/>

## **Disclaimer**

**If a deadline falls on a date that DCSD administrative offices are closed for business, the document will be considered due on the first business day after the deadline. The District reserves the right to change the timeline, as necessary. No exceptions will be made for missed deadlines.**

**Students selected for any School Choice Program must register at the assigned online or building address by the date indicated in the selection notification email/letter or school website. If the applicant does not register, the seat will be declined and offered to the next eligible applicant on the waiting list.** Please see individual school/program descriptions for school locations and telephone numbers. All lottery results are subject to verification by the Management Information System Office. Any malfunction of the lottery system will result in the immediate voiding of the drawing. The DeKalb County School District reserves the right to void and repeat any lottery drawing that results from any system malfunction or human error. All lottery sessions will be held at the Administrative/Instructional Complex, 1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard, Stone Mountain, GA 30083. Alternate lottery dates for additional available seats will be held internally as needed, May – August at 1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard, Stone Mountain, GA 30083.

DeKalb County School District (DCSD) reserves the right to change any statement in this publication concerning, but not limited to, rules, policies, procedures, program guidelines, dates, curricula, and courses without advance notice or obligation. DCSD reserves the right to place students in any school choice program due to unforeseen circumstances. Failure to read this brochure does not excuse parents and students from the regulations and requirements described herein. It is the policy of the DeKalb County Board of Education not to discriminate

on the basis of age, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, or handicap in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices. The DeKalb County School District School Choice Programs Office reserves the right to revise program guidelines, procedures, services, curricula and student placements without advance notice or obligation to support local, state and federal practices, regulations and policies. Failure to read this passage does not excuse parents and students from the regulations and requirements described on this website and the DCSD school Choice webpage.