

Board Policy JBCCA: Student Assignment to Schools

Status: ADOPTED

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Student Assignment to Schools

All students shall attend the elementary, middle or high school located in the school zone in which their parents or guardians reside, or the school to which they are assigned under the Program for Exceptional Children or the magnet school program.

Parents or guardians have the responsibility of reporting any change in residence to the principal of the school their child attends and supporting such change with documentation as required.

Magnet School Program

The Bibb County School District (District) recognizes that students who demonstrate interest, skill, and potential in a specific area may benefit from a specialized program. The District permits magnet programs in designated schools with approval from the Board of Education (Board). The programs will provide students with opportunities to pursue their specialized interests, develop their skills and talents, and extend their competencies beyond the usual scope of learning. Magnet programs will provide participating students an opportunity to experience an enriched curriculum that is consistent with the emphasis of the magnet program.

Magnet courses are determined and approved through the staffing allocation process. The courses are designated in each magnet school's master schedule. Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses are designated by the College Board and International Baccalaureate organization as meeting the criteria necessary to be approved and offered at the designated high school.

A. Student Admissions:

To be enrolled in a magnet program, a student must be eligible to attend a school in Bibb County. K-9 students must submit applications online to be considered for their school or schools of interest. Applications must be submitted in compliance with the published deadline for lottery identification to determine interview/audition priority at any school. Applicants are then interviewed/auditioned for selection based on multiple criteria that may include, but are not limited to: academic records, teacher recommendation forms, standardized test scores, academic and extracurricular involvement/accomplishments, performance skill/portfolios (middle and high schools), area specific theory, conduct, interests, attendance, and written communications skills. Magnet programs evaluate applicants independently; admission to one program does not indicate admission to other programs. Applicants may be offered admission to multiple magnet programs; however, accepted applicants must convey intent to enroll in only one magnet program in compliance with published deadlines. Waiting lists will be managed based on available slots and applications received by the published deadline.

Students who are Rising Kindergarten through Grade 9 moving from Out of District may apply at the time of moving to a residence within Bibb County.

B. Continuation Criteria:

1. Academic Performance, Programmatic Performance, and Programmatic Involvement: A minimum academic performance, programmatic performance, and programmatic involvement as outlined in the individual Magnet Program Contract must be maintained.
2. Attendance and Behavior: A student must adhere to the attendance and behavioral policies outlined in the individual Magnet Program Contract to remain in good standing.

C. Program Probation:

1. Academic Performance, Programmatic Performance, and Programmatic Involvement: A student will be placed on program probation when minimum academic performance, programmatic performance, and programmatic involvement are not maintained as outlined in the individual Magnet Program Contract. A

student and his or her parent/guardian will receive written notification of program probation at the beginning of the probation period. A student on probation will receive appropriate intervention and support in instructional areas from school staff. The probation period ends and the student returns to good standing upon the meeting of the Magnet Program Contract deficiencies in the reasonable timeline established by the school. If the minimum academic performance, programmatic performance, and programmatic involvement are not maintained as outlined in the individual Magnet Program Contract by the established end of the probationary period, the student may be dismissed from the program.

2. Attendance and Behavior: A student who violates the Magnet Program Contract will be placed on probation. A student and his or her parent/guardian will receive written notification of program probation following the violation(s). If the student receives no additional violations during the probationary period, the probation period ends and the student returns to good standing. If the student commits another violation of the Magnet Program Contract before the end of the probationary period, he or she may be dismissed from the program.

D. Dismissal:

Parents of students dismissed from the program will be notified in writing at the end of the probationary period.

1. Immediate program dismissal may result if:
 - a. A minimum academic performance, programmatic performance, and programmatic involvement are not met or if attendance and behavior contractual obligations are not met during the probationary period; or
 - b. Receives a Level III Code of Conduct infraction.
2. A student who withdraws or is dismissed from a magnet program may continue District enrollment in accordance with the same requirements as a student who moves between school attendance zones within the District.

E. Dismissal Appeal Process:

Students who are dismissed from a magnet program may appeal their dismissal to a review panel composed of two or three of the following: Director of Fine Arts and Magnet Programs, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning, Executive Officer (Elementary), Executive Officer (Secondary), Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning or their designees. The student initiates the appeal process by submitting a written request for reconsideration with all materials supporting the request, a return address, and a daytime telephone number to:

Department of Fine Arts and Magnet Programs
Bibb County School District
484 Mulberry Street, Suite 470
Macon, Georgia 31201

Notification of a final decision will be sent from the review panel. The decision of the review panel will be final.

F. Students with Disabilities

The District shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in the implementation of this policy, including in the admissions, continuation, probation, or dismissal of students with disabilities in magnet programs. When a student with a disability applies to a magnet program, the District will consider the individual needs of the student with a disability and whether it can meet those needs when determining whether the District is capable of providing the student a free appropriate public education (FAPE). The District will consider its capability without taking cost into account, but the District is not required to create a new program to provide FAPE. However, the District will not use the lack of an existing program or related aids and services as a pretext for denying a student with a disability enrollment in a magnet program. When enrolling students moving into the District into a magnet program, the District will make a meaningful determination of the individual needs of each student for special education and related aids and services required under existing federal law and consider all alternative services it does have available for that student before determining that it does not have the capability of providing the student a FAPE at the requested magnet school/ program location.

When determining whether a student with a disability should be continued, placed on probation, or dismissed from a magnet program based on their academic performance, attendance, or behavior, the District will ensure that its decisions do not discriminate against students with disabilities. The District's decisions will be guided by whether the District can provide the student with FAPE in the magnet program with reasonable supports and accommodations without resulting in a fundamental alteration to the program. Decisions based on the behavior of a student with disabilities will be made in accordance with the procedures set forth in law.

As referenced here, students with disabilities include those eligible for an individualized education program (IEP) or a Section 504 plan.
