

CHOICE SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

Policy Code: 3104

The Guilford County Schools will provide choice schools and programs as deemed necessary to meet the needs of pupils at elementary, middle and high school levels. Choice schools and programs are schools that offer either a specialized curriculum focus, innovative themes or unique teaching techniques that attract students from ~~diverse~~ a variety of backgrounds and require students/parents to make application to attend. These programs shall meet the adopted curricular standards and all other instructional requirements as established by the Board of Education.

Objectives:

Choice schools and programs are used by the district to fulfill its mission and to meet three objectives:

1. Provide expanded, or additional, educational opportunities that stimulate student interests and foster academic achievement; ~~and,~~
2. Provide a wide variety of choices for every child so that every child has the opportunity to learn through a broad range of perspectives and experiences; and, ~~attend school without being isolated based on a the child's identity and attend schools where diverse populations are supported~~
3. Maximize the use of existing school facilities.

Planning:

When choice schools and programs are developed, consideration will be given to the following components:

Geographic Divisions:

Choice schools and programs shall be designated to maximize access for all students, while considering the transportation costs, travel time, per pupil expense, operational efficiencies, and proximity to students likely to take advantage of choice opportunities.

Programs and Concepts:

Program themes or concepts shall be determined by student needs and interests, the accessibility of current programs, the continuity of thematic programs from k ~~Kindergarten~~ through 12th grade, commitment of staff and community to the concept, and the documented research for costs, feasibility and academic effectiveness provided prior to implementation.

All choice schools and programs must receive Board of Education approval prior to implementation or discontinuation.

Choice Enrollment:

Enrollment in elementary and middle [grades](#) choice schools and programs is offered through:

- hybrid choice - schools with an assigned attendance boundary with some seats filled through the choice application process. Some hybrid choice schools offer an innovative curriculum theme for all students with remaining seats filled by application. Others house a choice program to which families (including those residing in the attendance boundary) must apply as well as a traditional school program for students enrolling from the zoned attendance boundary.
- whole-school choice - all seats will be filled through the choice application process.

High School choice schools and programs include specific academic programs that may encompass an entire school or designated academies within a school. All seats in high school choice schools and programs are filled through the choice application process.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

Adopted: June 30, 2005

Revised: June 10, 2010; May 10, 2022 (recodified from Policy IEM); April 16, 2024; [\[date\]](#)

Guilford County Board of Education