

CHOICE MAGNET OR OPTION SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

Policy Code: **3104**

The Guilford County Schools will provide ~~magnet or option~~ choice schools and programs as deemed necessary to meet the needs of pupils at elementary, middle and high school levels. ~~These programs shall meet the adopted curricular standards and all other requirements as established by the Board of Education. The Board believes every student must be offered the opportunity to attend a school that reflects the diverse population of this school system as much as possible. All Magnet or Option Schools and Programs must receive Board of Education approval prior to implementation or discontinuation. Magnet Schools or option~~ Choice schools and programs are defined as schools of choice that offer either a specialized curriculum focus, innovative themes or unique teaching techniques that attract students from diverse backgrounds and require students/parents to make application to attend in lieu of their regular assigned school. 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 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 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 magnet choice schools and programs is offered through: are either

- ~~attendance zone~~hybrid magnets choice - (nearby assigned attendance area with all others applying to attend) schools with an assigned attendance boundary with additional 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.
- ~~dedicated whole-school magnets choice~~ - (all students must make application to attend) all seats will be filled through the choice application process.

High School choice option 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. Enrollment for magnet or option schools and programs and are filled through application only.

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

Mission and Objectives:

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

- ~~1. Provided expanded, or additional, educational opportunities that stimulate student interests and foster academic achievement; and,~~
- ~~2. Reduce minority group isolation and support diverse populations within schools; and,~~
- ~~3. Maximize the use of existing school facilities.~~

When Magnet or Option Schools and Programs are developed, consideration will be given to the following components:

Geographic Divisions:

~~Magnet or Option Schools and Programs choice zones shall be designated as determined by equity of access, diversity of population and transportation costs based on time and other objective cost and impact data.~~

~~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 K-12, commitment of staff and community to the concept, and the documented research for costs, feasibility and academic effectiveness provided prior to implementation.~~

~~The Superintendent and staff shall develop an Administrative Procedure to include guidelines for the initiation, operation, evaluation and discontinuation of Magnet or Option Schools and Programs. This procedure shall also outline the budget development process, application/registration procedures and time lines, and, any other information necessary to communicate the intent of the Magnet or Option Schools and Programs.~~

Adopted: June 30, 2005

Revised: June 10, 2010; May 10, 2022 (recodified from Policy IEM); TBD

Guilford County Board of Education