

Tuscaloosa Magnet Elementary & Middle Schools

A. School Overview

Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools-Elementary (Grades 1-5) and Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools-Middle (Grades 6-8) are authorized International Baccalaureate World Schools. They offer a curriculum approved by the International Baccalaureate Organization and provide a project based learning environment. Students learn to discover knowledge, to create a better world, and to serve in a way that respects others.

B. Admission Policy

1. Students residing in any Tuscaloosa City School zone are eligible to apply for enrollment at the Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools in grades 1-8. Applications will be available to all students currently enrolled in the Tuscaloosa City Schools and to students currently enrolled in private or home schools who reside in the city schools attendance zone.
2. The enrollment distribution will be based on a 7 percent allocation from each school, along with a 7 percent allocation from the University Place Choice Zone (UPZ). Students that currently live in the University Place Choice Zone will be allotted the number of spots, equal to the number of spots available for the largest 7% allocation. Students living in the University Place Choice zone must indicate their residence on their application.
3. The 20-day report from the current year will be used to determine the 7 percent allocation. Private and home school students that reside within the Tuscaloosa City Schools attendance zone will be allocated any remaining slots available, not to exceed 7% of enrollment from the largest elementary school within the Tuscaloosa City Schools

C. Student Eligibility

1. The Tuscaloosa Magnet School Application Committee will collect data from the school the students currently attend within the Tuscaloosa City Schools
2. Students currently enrolled in private schools, homeschools, or schools outside the Tuscaloosa City Schools attendance zone will be contacted by the Tuscaloosa Magnet School Application Committee with a scheduled time to complete assessments required for the screening process.
3. Students currently enrolled in private schools or homeschools will need to bring the following information with them at the time scheduled to complete assessments:
 - Proof of Residence within Tuscaloosa City Schools Attendance Zone
 - Current report card
 - Any other data that may be requested by the Tuscaloosa Magnet School Application Committee
4. **All current Tuscaloosa City Schools kindergarten students will be administered the Universal Screeners for reading and math.** Once all data has been collected, the Tuscaloosa Magnet Application Committee will complete the Applicant Profile Page for each applicant. Students will be assigned an overall percentage score based on the following data:

Rising 1 st – 5 th Grade Students	Rising 6 th – 8 th Grade Students
Student Performance (25 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Math Grades (1st and 2nd Quarter) (12.5 Points)• Reading and Language Arts Grades (1st and 2nd Quarter) (12.5 Points) Universal Screener (25 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Universal Screener (12.5 Points)• Math Universal Screener (12.5 Points) Learner Profile Screening Device (25 Points)	Student Performance (25 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Math Grades (1st and 2nd Quarter) (12.5 Points)• Reading and/or Language Arts Grades (1st and 2nd Quarter) (12.5 Points) Student Achievement Data (25 Points) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highest score of either the Reading Universal Screener or State Reading Assessment (12.5 Points)• Highest score of either the Math Universal Screener or State Math Assessment (12.5 Points) Learner Profile Screening Device (25 Points)

D. Application Process

1. Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools information and registration will be available on the Tuscaloosa City Schools' website.
2. Information will be distributed to all rising first through seventh grade students in the Tuscaloosa City Schools district. Interested parents will complete the application online or return a completed paper copy to the Tuscaloosa City Board of Education no later than the close of the business day on the last day of January. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline.

E. Selection Process

1. The Tuscaloosa Magnet School Application Committee will process and review the applications and make the final selection of students for enrollment. The Committee will be chaired by the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction or their designee. Members will include, but are not limited to, the following personnel:
 - The Director of Elementary Education
 - The Director of Middle School Education
 - A District ELL Specialist
 - A District Special Education Specialist
 - A District Curriculum Specialist
2. Applicants must have an overall percentage score of 73% or higher in order to be eligible to attend.
3. All rising first grade students with a score of 73% or higher will be mailed a letter of eligibility and an application to the Tuscaloosa Magnet School.
4. The following procedures will be utilized to **identify rising 1st grade applicants** to attend Tuscaloosa Magnet School.
 - Scores from the Applicant Profile page will be placed into a spreadsheet identifying students by their Student State ID number or a randomly generated 10-digit number to identify each student. Spreadsheets will be developed by grade level and then by school. Students that currently attend private schools, home schools, or schools outside of the Tuscaloosa City School district will be placed on a spreadsheet together and identified as a separate school.
 - A minimum qualifying score of 55 points or 73% is required for consideration of application.
 - Applicants will be ranked from highest percentage score to lowest percentage score within each school.
 - The committee will select the top 7% of applicants from each home school zone within the Tuscaloosa City Schools. The committee will select students with the highest score from each school until the number of seats allocated for each school has been filled. The number of applicants invited from private and home schools will not exceed 7% of enrollment from the largest elementary school within the Tuscaloosa City SchoolsAvailable spots will be filled in the following order:
 - Applicants currently enrolled in the Tuscaloosa City Schools
 - Applicants currently residing in the Tuscaloosa City Schools attendance zone, but attending private or home schools. The number of applicants invited from private and home schools will not exceed 7% of enrollment from the largest elementary school within the Tuscaloosa City Schools.
5. The following procedures will be utilized to **identify rising 2nd through 8th grade applicants** to attend Tuscaloosa Magnet School.
 - Scores from the Applicant Profile page will be placed into a spreadsheet identifying students by their Student State ID number or a randomly generated 10-digit number to identify each student. Spreadsheets will be developed by grade level and then by school. Students that currently attend private schools, home schools, or schools outside of the Tuscaloosa City School district will be placed on a spreadsheet together and identified as

a separate school. The spreadsheet will include the final score based on the Magnet Applicant Profile.

- A minimum qualifying score of 55 points or 73% is required for consideration of application.
- Applicants will be ranked from highest percentage score to lowest percentage score within each school. Based on the available number of spots in that grade level, qualifying students from underrepresented schools (those below 7% allocation) will be placed first followed by other schools.

F. Enrollment

1. Applicants that are invited to attend Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools must respond to their invitation by returning their acceptance letter to the attendance office by the deadline listed on the invitation. Applicants that do not respond to the invitation by the deadline listed on the invitation will forfeit their spot at Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools.
2. Students currently attending Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools will be required to complete a commitment letter regarding their decision to or not to attend Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools for the next school year. The commitment letter must be completed and returned to the school no later than the last working day of January. Students not returning a commitment letter will lose their spots at the end of the current school year.
3. Vacant spots will be filled through the end of the second week of the school year. In filling vacant spots, the Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools Application Committee will invite the next person on the list to fulfill the 7% representation of each school. For students entering 2nd – 8th grades and rising 1st grade students the next person on the list from the school of the student that has withdrawn will be invited. If there are no eligible students from that school, the next eligible student on the list will be invited to fulfill the 7% representation from each school. Parents will be notified of the invitation by a phone call from the Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools Application Committee.