

CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

EXHIBIT STUDENT ASSIGNMENT PLAN PRIORITIES– NON MAGNET SITES	CMS/NEPN Code: JCA-E1
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Each year CMS will conduct a Lottery through which students may apply for admission to three magnet programs¹ and/or non-magnet schools² in which there are seats. Lottery applicants will be placed in schools at which there are available seats in the appropriate grade levels based upon a random number assigned to each applicant and the Guarantees and Priority Rankings in effect for that school year. Students who want to attend non-magnet schools outside of their home school areas that have available seats or enter or change magnet programs must participate in the Lottery. However, effective with the 2006-2007 school year, students who plan to attend their home schools do not need to go through the Lottery. These assignments will be made automatically.

New beginning with the 2006-2007 school year: A student in the terminal grade of a magnet program will automatically be assigned to the designated magnet continuation program³ and does not need to participate in the Lottery. If the student wants to attend his or her home school rather than be assigned to the magnet continuation program, he or she must notify the Student Placement Office during the Lottery application period.⁴ A student in the terminal grade of a magnet program needs to submit a Lottery application only if he or she wants to attend a different magnet program or a non-magnet school in the subsequent school year.

It is expected that the following students will participate in the Lottery:

- Students who attend non-magnet schools that are not their home schools who will be moving to middle school or high school and do not want to attend their home schools;
- Students who attend their home schools and live in areas that are being assigned to different home schools with the subsequent school year and do not want to attend their new home schools;
- Students new to CMS who do not want to attend their home schools. This group of students includes entering kindergartners (including students who participated in Bright Beginnings) and students entering from non-public schools or from other school districts;

¹ Throughout this exhibit, references to “magnet programs” include partial and whole-school magnet programs, unless otherwise indicated.

² “Non-magnet schools” are schools outside of a student’s home school area to which the student may apply for a Lottery assignment as a “choiced-in” student.

³ This automatic assignment applies only to magnet programs for which there are continuation programs. If a magnet does not have a continuation program, the default assignment is the student’s home school.

⁴ This process is described in more detail in the regulation that accompanies this exhibit.

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Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. §6301 et seq.

Previous CMS Exhibit: none

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- Students in terminal grades of magnet programs who do not want to attend either their home schools or the designated continuation schools for their magnet programs;
- Rising Kindergarten students or newly enrolling students whose home schools are Title I Choice Schools⁵ and who want to attend different schools;
- Current 5th graders whose middle school home schools or magnet continuation schools are Title I Choice Schools and who want to attend different schools;
- Students in grades K – 4 and grades 6 and 7 who are currently assigned to a Title I Choice School and who want to attend different schools; or
- Other students currently assigned to Title I Choice Schools to whom the district is required by Federal law to offer the opportunity to attend different schools and who want to attend different schools.

A current student who does not fit one of the above categories but wishes to change school assignment must also complete a Lottery application.

I. SIBLING GUARANTEE

Effective with the 2006 – 2007 school year:

1. Siblings⁶ will be assigned to the same school or program with the following stipulations:
 - For current students: the sibling guarantee operates as a guarantee only for a younger sibling (or twin) of a CMS student assigned to a school or program;
 - For families new to CMS: the sibling guarantee operates for all siblings in a family after one sibling is assigned to a school or program;
 - Siblings must identify the same magnet program as their first choice on their Lottery applications;

⁵ Title I Choice Schools are certain schools that receive Title I funds and have been identified for school improvement or corrective action or restructuring pursuant to the federal “No Child Left Behind” Act.

⁶ Siblings must have the same residence and one parent or guardian in common with another CMS student.

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- Siblings must meet any eligibility criteria before submitting an application for a magnet program;⁷
- For magnet programs, all siblings and their parents must sign the appropriate magnet compact.

In addition to the above placement criteria, the first-admitted sibling must remain enrolled in the school for the entire year in order for the sibling guarantee to remain in effect for the other sibling(s).

Siblings who do not live in the transportation zone are not eligible for transportation.

II. PRIORITIES

The following Priority Rankings apply to school assignments for the 2006 – 2007 school year (unless otherwise stated). Students who do not qualify for the Sibling Guarantee will be admitted to non-magnet schools based on random number lottery and the availability of seats after all students with the sibling guarantee have been assigned. The lottery process will be conducted in the following order:

1. Students who perform below grade level in reading⁸ will have a priority to attend schools at which the reading performance is above the district's reading performance⁹ average. The number of students admitted under this priority is limited to 25% of the available seats in a school.

The Superintendent is authorized to exclude a school at which the reading performance is above the district's reading performance average from the list of available recipient schools if it has high student turnover and more than 50% of its students receive Free or Reduced Price lunch.

⁷ If an eligibility criteria can be satisfied only after the Lottery has been conducted, a student's assignment will be contingent upon meeting the eligibility criteria before being enrolled in the school. An example of this situation is magnet programs that have minimum End of Grade (EOG) test score requirements. EOG results are not available until late May; therefore, admission to such programs is contingent upon a student's scores on the EOG tests.

⁸ Grade level reading performance for individual students is defined in Regulation JCA-R, Section I.

⁹ For elementary and middle schools, district and school reading performance average refers to the percentage of students at or above Level III on the reading End of Grade Test. For high schools, district and school reading performance average refers to the percentage of students who score at or above Level III on the English I End of Course Test. Performance measurements are based on tests taken at the end of the school year preceding the Lottery and are reported by school level.

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2. Students who:
- are rising Kindergarten students or newly enrolling students whose schools are Title I Choice Schools, or
 - are current 5th graders whose middle school home schools or magnet continuation schools are Title I Choice Schools, or
 - are in grades K – 4 or grades 6 and 7 and are currently assigned to Title I Choice Schools:
- will have a priority to attend schools that are not Title I Choice Schools.¹⁰

Students who qualify for Free or Reduced Price lunch and are below grade level in reading will receive the first available seats under this priority. The number of students admitted under this priority is limited to 10% of the available seats in a school.

3. All elementary and middle school students who live in the transportation zone will be admitted in order of lottery number.
4. All elementary and middle school students who live outside the transportation zone will be admitted in order of lottery number. Transportation will not be provided to these students.
5. All high school students will have priority to attend any high school in the district.¹¹ Transportation will be provided only for students who live in the transportation zone of the school.

¹⁰ Students who indicate on their Lottery applications that they will not accept placement in Title I Choice Schools and are not placed through the Lottery will be placed in non-Title I Choice Schools by the Student Placement Office. These students will not be placed in Title I Choice Schools unless they indicate on their Lottery applications that they would accept such assignments.

¹¹ An exception applies to high school International Baccalaureate Programs. Students may apply for admission only to the high school IB program that serves the geographic area in which they live.

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