

CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

EXHIBIT STUDENT ASSIGNMENT PLAN PRIORITIES– MAGNET PROGRAMS & TITLE I CHOICE LOTTERY	CMS/NEPN Code: JCA-E
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Each year CMS will conduct a Lottery for students who wish to attend magnet schools and for those who wish to exercise their rights to attend non-Title I Choice Schools.¹

A. Magnet Lottery

Students who want to enter or change magnet programs must participate in the Magnet Lottery, through which students may apply for admission to three magnet programs² 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.

- 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 a student wants to attend a different magnet program, he or she must submit a Lottery application.
- A student who wants to attend his or her home school rather than be assigned to a magnet continuation program does not need to participate in the Lottery. Instead the student must so notify the Student Placement Office during the Lottery application period.⁴

B. Title I Choice Lottery

Students in Title I Choice Schools⁵ who wish to exercise their rights under federal law to attend a different school must do so through the Lottery. This option is available to:

- Rising Kindergarten students or newly enrolling students whose home schools are Title I Choice Schools and who want to attend different schools;

¹ Effective with the 2011-2012 school year, the Lottery will not be used to make assignments to non-magnet schools. Students (including students formerly entitled to a sibling guarantee) who wish to attend non-magnet schools other than their home schools may request a transfer through the process set forth in Policy JFAC and its accompanying regulation, JFAC-R. All CMS Policies and Regulations are available online at www.cms.k12.nc.us.

² Throughout this exhibit, references to “magnet programs” include partial and whole-school magnet programs, unless otherwise indicated.

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.

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.

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- 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 Title I Choice Schools 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.

I. CONTINUATION AND SIBLING GUARANTEES

The following guarantees apply to school assignments:

1. Students currently enrolled in magnet programs⁶ will be able to remain through the last grade of their school level and to feed to the next school level for the program without participating in the Lottery.⁷
2. Siblings⁸ will be assigned to the same magnet program with the following stipulations:
 - a. For current students: the sibling guarantee operates as a guarantee only for a younger sibling (or twin) of a CMS student assigned to a magnet program;
 - b. For families new to CMS: the sibling guarantee operates for all siblings in a family after one sibling is assigned to a magnet program;
 - c. Siblings must identify the same magnet program as their first choice on their Lottery applications; the sibling guarantee does not extend to siblings who apply for different magnet programs located on the same campus with the exception of the magnet programs at Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology;⁹

⁶ For schools that are partial magnets, any student admitted to the school may choose to participate in the magnet program if the student meets the criteria (if any) for that program. The exception to this general rule applies to partial magnet high school International Baccalaureate programs. For those programs, only students who live within the transportation zone for the particular high school IB magnet program may participate in the magnet program.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Siblings must have the same residence and one parent or guardian in common with another CMS student.

⁹ For the magnet programs located at Berry, if an older sibling is admitted to one of the magnet programs on these campuses, a younger sibling is guaranteed a seat in a different magnet program located on the same campus.

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- d. All siblings in a family must meet eligibility criteria before submitting an application for a magnet program;¹⁰
- e. 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 all magnet and Title I Choice School assignments (unless otherwise stated). Students who do not qualify for a Guarantee will be admitted to magnet schools and programs based on random number lottery and the availability of seats after all students with Guarantees have been assigned. The lottery process will be conducted in the following order:

1. Students who live within $\frac{1}{3}$ mile of a whole school magnet school (the “proximity area”) will have a priority for up to 20% of the available seats in that school. In order to include sufficient numbers of children within a proximity area, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to extend the $\frac{1}{3}$ mile radius for a school for which there are fewer than 15 registered CMS students for the school’s grade level living within the $\frac{1}{3}$ mile proximity area.¹¹ The Superintendent shall notify the Board of such an action.
2. Students who are:
 - a. rising Kindergarten students or newly enrolling students whose schools are Title I Choice Schools, or
 - b. current 5th graders whose middle school home schools or magnet continuation schools are Title I Choice Schools, or

¹⁰ 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 would be contingent upon a student’s scores on the EOG test.

¹¹ This is most often the case when the land within 1/3 mile of a school is used for parks or commercial or industrial purposes.

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- c. 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.¹²
3. Students who live in a magnet feeder area will be admitted in order of lottery number with the following limits: The maximum number of students admitted under this priority from any one elementary home school area must be proportional to the total number of potential applicants in the magnet feeder area.
 4. All students who live in the magnet feeder area will be admitted in order of lottery number.
 5. All students who live outside the magnet feeder area will be admitted in order of lottery number.¹³ Transportation will not be provided to these students.

¹² Students who indicate on their Lottery application 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.

¹³ 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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Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. §6301 et seq.

Cross Reference: FBC, IHBJ, JCA, JCA-R, JCA-E1