

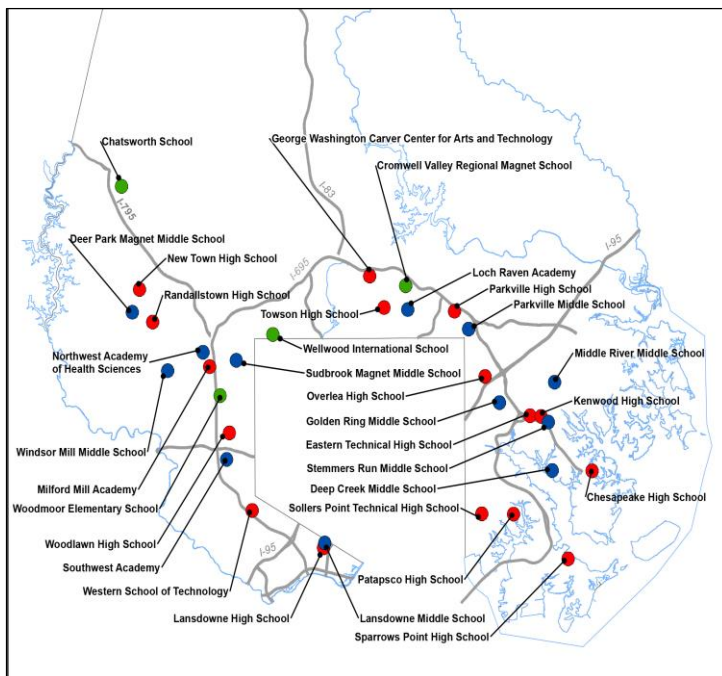


How do I find out about the different kinds of magnet programs?

Find program descriptions, sample course listings, and other information at the BCPS Magnet Programs' Web site (tinyurl.com/BCPSMagnet).

Students and families can also attend the annual *Magnet EXPO* and magnet showcase events to learn about programs offered at individual schools. Additional information can be obtained by speaking with your child's school counselor or by calling BCPS Magnet Programs at (443) 809-4127.

Baltimore County Schools Hosting Magnet Programs



Magnet Programs
 Baltimore County Public Schools
 105 W. Chesapeake Avenue
 Towson, MD 21204



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What are magnet programs?

BCPS Magnet programs are theme-related curricula and instructional programs that are not available as comprehensive school program options. They enhance students' educational experiences through innovative instruction, unique learning environments, and specialized programs of study. Magnet programs draw students across school attendance boundaries and are accessed through a centralized application and admissions process.



Baltimore County Public Schools offers more than 100 magnet programs at elementary, middle, and high schools across the county. Program offerings range from engineering, mathematics, and science to performing and visual arts, as well as International Baccalaureate and career and technical programs.

If your child has an interest or talent related to one of the magnet programs offered by Baltimore County Public Schools, visit the BCPS Magnet Programs' Web site (tinyurl.com/BCPSMagnet) to learn more about programs and the application process.



How can I get my child into a magnet program?

Starting in the fall, magnet applications for the next school year are available from the BCPS Magnet Programs' Web site (tinyurl.com/BCPSMagnet). Parents have the option of applying online or downloading an application. Printed applications are also available from all BCPS schools. Applications must be submitted by the deadline date, typically in November.



How does my child benefit from being in a magnet program?

Students in magnet programs participate in innovative instructional programs in a diverse* educational environment.

Over the course of their experience, students have the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in their area of interest.

Students enrolled in magnet programs tend to have higher levels of academic achievement and graduation rates than those in non-magnet programs. They also are more likely to have 21st century skills including the ability to think critically, adopt multiple perspectives, and develop cross-racial friendships. Additionally, studies have found that schools hosting magnet programs report higher levels of parent and community involvement.

Because the BCPS magnet programs are aligned with evolving community and industry/business needs, students have the opportunity to complete their K-12 education with a portfolio of knowledge and skills, an industry certification or license, internship experience, or articulated college credit.

*As defined by the Board of Education, diversity includes racial, ethnic, economic, gender, and special needs populations.

Can any student apply?

Magnet programs provide educational options to Baltimore County's diverse student population. All students eligible to attend a Baltimore County public school are encouraged to apply to a magnet program aligned with their interests or talents. While all programs have grade-level restrictions, most are available to incoming kindergarten, Grade 6, and Grade 9 students. Many high school programs also are available to students going into upper-level grades.



What if my child has special needs?

Students have access to Special Education, Section 504, and ESOL support services in all magnet programs. To help you decide if a particular magnet program is a good match for your child, look into what your child will be expected to do in the program and speak with the magnet coordinator and your child's service provider about your child's strengths and educational needs.

If your child receives testing accommodations as part of a documented education plan, the accommodations will be provided, as appropriate, during the high school magnet assessments. For applicants who are currently enrolled in and attending a public school in Baltimore County, school-based magnet program staff will have access to the educational plans. Applicants not currently attending a public school in Baltimore County must submit documentation of testing accommodation requirements with the magnet application.



Is transportation provided?

Geographic location and transportation availability should be considered when applying to magnet programs. Each magnet program has an established transportation zone and Baltimore County Public Schools provides transportation to and from magnet programs only for students who reside within the established transportation zone. Students who are entitled to transportation as a necessary and current related service under an IEP or Section 504 Plan are eligible for transportation to a magnet school and program.

Transportation is provided from specific pick-up points* at designated school sites. **Parents are responsible for providing transportation for their students to and from their designated pick-up point.**

(For more information, please visit the Magnet Programs' Web site.)

*Pick-up points do not fall under the same guidelines as regular bus stops with regard to distance and walking conditions. In addition, supervision is not provided by the school system at pick-up points.



What if I have more questions?

For additional information, please call us at (443) 809-4127 or visit the BCPS Magnet Programs Web site (tinyurl.com/BCPSMagnet).



Elementary and middle school applicants are placed through a random lottery process. High school applicants take an assessment in December or January for each program selected. The assessment may include a test, interview, essay, or audition. Each high school program provides assessment guidelines designed to help you prepare your child for the assessment. Some programs require students to complete a project or activity prior to the assessment. Most high school programs include an evaluation of report card grades. For additional information about high school magnet assessments, visit the BCPS Magnet Programs' Web site.

In the spring, you'll be notified about your child's admission status. Students who qualify for magnet programs are either offered a seat in the program or placed on a wait list through a centralized random lottery process.

