

Select Schools: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are there any paper applications available this year?

- Yes. **Beginning November 1, 2007**, applications may be downloaded from the school district web site, www.greenville.k12.sc.us/district/schools/select.asp and each Select School web site. Hard copies will be available at each Select School and the district's Service Center at the Central Office.
- Any parent who would like assistance in completing the application is invited to attend the **Select Schools Kick-Off on November 6, 2007, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Blythe Academy**. Parents may also go to any Select School after November 1 for help in completing the application.
- ***To facilitate the application process, parents/students should have the following two documents with them at the time they will complete the application:***
 - 1) The student's perm number. This 12-digit perm number can be found on the student's report card. Any parent who does not have a copy of the student's report card must go **in person** to the student's home-based school to request the perm number. Out-of-district applicants will not have a perm number.
 - 2) The student statement. Students/parents will write the student statement directly on the application. The student statement will be limited to approximately 3-4 sentences .No additional pages or attachments will be accepted.

2. What is the policy regarding the acceptance of new students whose siblings are already in the magnet program? Does this policy apply to all magnet schools and programs?

- Siblings of magnet students who will return the following school year are given priority in acceptance. They must complete the application and earn the minimum qualifying score, depending on program level. Siblings are accepted in the order of their score- beginning with those students with the highest score down to those students with the lowest qualifying score. After all siblings who have qualified are assigned a slot, non-siblings will be accepted beginning with the highest score down to the lowest qualifying score until the school's assigned allotment has been filled.

Program Level	Maximum Score	Minimum Qualifying Score
Elementary	22	16
Middle	22	16
High	25	20

3. What is the lottery system and how does it work? Is it used at all grade levels and in all magnet schools?

- a. It is common for two or more qualifying students to have the same numerical score. The lottery is used to determine the order in which students with the same scores are assigned slots. Beginning with those students with the highest score and decreasing to students with the minimum qualifying score, students are accepted into the school's magnet program until all allocations are filled.
- b. When two or more students have the same numerical score, their names will be randomly selected to determine who will be accepted first, second, etc. before moving to the next highest score on the list.

4. How does the wait list system work?

- a. A wait list- when necessary- is maintained from the first round of admissions into first semester of the following year. Students who are on the wait list must reapply for the next year. When a magnet vacancy occurs at a given grade level, the next name on the list- in that grade level- is offered a slot.
- b. Students on the wait list are not invited to spring orientation meetings. They should complete the registration process at their assigned schools and attend the scheduled orientation meetings at their home-based schools. There are no guarantees that a student on the wait list will be offered a slot for the next school year. If a student is offered a place at a magnet school after an orientation meeting has already taken place, then the school will ensure that the student and parents receive the same information that was shared at the spring orientation meeting.

5. If a student submits an application during the first round and is not accepted, when can he or she reapply?

- a. Students who apply and meet the qualifications for admission are placed on the wait list into first semester of the next school year. These students do not need to reapply during the time they are on the wait list. They are eligible to reapply the following open enrollment period for the next school year.
- b. Students who fail to qualify for admission during the first through fifth rounds may not reapply for admission in any round. Procedures stipulate that students may apply only one time per year.

6. How is student attendance evaluated and weighted in the admissions process?

- a. Attendance is one of four factors in the scoring process. The state standard for acceptable attendance is five or fewer absences per semester (excluding those excused by a physician or by a principal for family emergencies and identified on the printout). Any student with five or fewer absences during the current semester earns four points. Any student exceeding that number earns no points.

7. How are grades weighted in scoring applications?

The traditional 4-point scale is used for determining GPA in the magnet application process. Grades from the most current completed semester will be used in scoring (e.g., for 8th graders applying in first round 2007, second semester grades from seventh grade will be evaluated). Applicants for kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2 will be evaluated with an interview instead of a report card.

8. What is the significance of the student statement in the scoring process?

At the elementary and middle school level, the student statement accounts for five points in the application's overall score. At the high school level, the student statement accounts for four points in the overall score. Each of the magnet academies has a specific academic focus. **It is important that the student convey knowledge of the magnet focus, his/her reasons for choosing the particular academy and its specific academic program(s), and any relevant personal information.** Students are to submit a clear, well-written statement. Parents of applicants in K-5 and grade 1 are to write a statement on the student's behalf stating reasons for choosing the particular academy and its specific academic program, and any relevant personal information. Students/parents will write the student statement directly on the application. No attachments will be accepted.

9. How is the disciplinary portion of the total score calculated?

- a. The discipline record counts as 5 possible points in the scoring process.
- b. The discipline report from first semester of the current year will be used for scoring the 2008-09 application.

10. Do you accept applications after the November 26, 2007 deadline?

- a. The magnet application timeline is divided into periods called rounds. For example, all who apply between November 1- 26, 2007 are first-round applicants. It will be named "first window" and will open on November 1, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. It will close promptly at 12:00 p.m. on November 26, 2007. Students who apply after the deadline on November 26 and before 12:00 p.m. on January 25, 2008 are second-round applicants. The second round will run from 12:01 p.m. on November 26 through 12:00 p.m. January 25, 2008. There are a total of five application windows. Below are the dates of all windows:

Window	Window Closes @ 12:00 (Parents must have applications and required documentation at the Select School by noon	Parent Letters Mailed	Deadline for Parent Response
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	on the dates below)		
1	Nov 26	Dec. 6	Dec. 13
2	Jan. 25	Feb. 1	Feb. 8
3	Feb. 25	March 3	March 10
4	May 19	May 28	June 4
5	Aug. 6	Aug. 8	Phone notification

- b. Applications are accepted until August 6, 2008 for school year 2008-2009. However, for some magnet schools, it may be unlikely that a late qualifier (second round on) will be admitted into the magnet program, especially if a wait list is already in place. The number of students a magnet school can accept is determined by enrollment projections. Therefore, students who apply and qualify during the first round have a greater chance of being offered a slot than those who qualify in later rounds. All qualifiers from first round are offered slots before any student from second round can be taken. It is very important to apply during first round!

11. Are applications accepted “first come, first served”?

- a. **During the open enrollment period (November 1 – 26, 2007) applications are not accepted on a first-come, first- served basis.** Students who qualify in the first round are offered slots before anyone who qualifies in the second round- no matter the score. If a first round student has a 20.0 score and a second round student has a 25.0, the first round student will be offered the slot that is available.
- b. It is very important that students and parents complete their sections of the application as soon as possible to avoid missing the deadline.
- c. Private and out of district schools must submit all required documents prior to the deadline for the round. No late documents will be accepted for the current round. Late documents will result in an application being moved to the next round. There are no exceptions

12. When will the student/parents be notified of acceptance decisions?

- a. Notification of acceptance decisions will be sent via regular mail on the dates in the chart under question 10. Applications in any round may be accepted, denied, or placed on a wait list.
- b. The acceptance notification will inform parents of students who are accepted (offered a slot) of the deadline by which parents will have to notify the academy that they plan to enroll the following year. If a parent does not respond to the invitation to enroll by the deadline, the slot will be offered to the next student on the wait list.
- c. Please note that students must accept only one invitation if two or more schools offer. The process will NOT allow a student or parent to accept a slot at more than one school. Once a student has accepted a place at a magnet school, the system will automatically delete his or her name from all other magnet school lists.

13. What happens when an incomplete application is received?

- a. If time permits before the deadline, the magnet school coordinator will make every effort to get the required documentation and/or information from the private or out-of-area school.
- b. If the deadline passes (window closes) and the application is incomplete, it will be moved to the next round and held until the requested information is sent. Once the application is completed, it will be scored and recorded in the current round.
- c. **It is the responsibility of the parent and the student to submit an application and all required documents if applicable by the stated deadline.**

14. What happens if, after enrolling in a magnet school, I decide to return to my homebase school?

- a. Once you leave the magnet school and enroll at your homebase school, you have surrendered the slot at the magnet school and are no longer a magnet student.

b. If you wish to return to the magnet school, you must re-apply and be accepted through the same process as any other student applying for that program. You will have no priority in the process.

c. The same rules apply to students who leave one magnet school and enroll in another.

d. Students who participate on any sports teams must contact the school district athletic director to answer questions related to eligibility.

15. What happens if I change my address?

a. If you have been attending a school as a magnet student and then move into the magnet school's attendance area, you are no longer classified as a magnet student (but are still eligible to participate in the magnet academic program). Parents must contact the magnet school's attendance office and bring proof of new address (copy of power or gas bill, etc. with parent name and current address).

b. If you are a magnet student and move into an area that is not in the attendance area for that magnet school, you must report your change of address immediately to the magnet school attendance office.

c. If you move away from the attendance area for a particular magnet academy and are no longer a "home base" student, you must apply as a magnet and be accepted in order to return to the academy. No special consideration will be given to these students. It is very important to apply first round to maximize the chances that a slot will be open for you. If you think you will be moving, please apply during the first round.

16. Once enrolled as a magnet student, do I need to re-apply each year?

a. Magnet students who plan to continue at a particular magnet school do not need to reapply each year. However, every year parents must renew their magnet status by completing a renewal form. The "window" dates by which this form must be completed and returned will be announced to the students and in the school newsletter. The importance of renewal will be emphasized and window dates repeatedly announced. Reminder letters will not be sent home. Individual students will be reminded as the deadline

approaches. Contacts with the students and the home will be documented.

- b. Students who fail to renew their magnet slots by the deadline will be re-assigned to their home base schools. If the student chooses to return to the magnet academy and failed to renew the slot by the deadline, the parent must contact the magnet school coordinator.

17. Is transportation provided for magnet students?

- a. Transportation is currently available for magnet students who indicate their request while completing the application.
- b. Transportation- like magnet status- must be renewed each year.
- c. Bus assignments are made and communicated to the parents by the Transportation Office. For information regarding pickups, drop-offs and routes, please call the Transportation Office at 355-1291.