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# ACPS Magnet Programs and Process

for the 2025-2026 School Year

Parent Information

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# Why Magnet Programs?

“Magnet schools and magnet programs offer a specialized curriculum to students outside the school’s normal attendance boundaries. These programs may include a particular theme or focus such as mathematics, science, technology, communications, international affairs, business or performing arts. A magnet school is defined as an elementary, middle, or high school that offers, to all students enrolled in that particular school, a special curriculum capable of attracting substantial numbers of students of different social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds. Magnet programs differ slightly from a magnet school as the special curriculum is offered to a cohort of students as opposed to the entire school.”

(<https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/other-school-choice-options/magnet-schools/>)

# Elementary School Magnet Programs

Program	School	Application Grades
The Center for Gifted and Talented Studies	Archer	3rd-5th
STEM	Foster	3rd-5th
STEAM	Metcalfe	KG-5th
Center for Fine Arts	Rawlings	KG-5th
Dual Language Immersion	Terwilliger	KG-2nd
Williams Magnet	Williams	KG-5th

# Middle School Magnet Programs

Program	School	Application Grades
Academy of Technology and Advanced Studies	Bishop	6th-8th
The Lyceum: Center for Advanced Studies	Lincoln	6th-8th
Biomedical Mustangs	Mebane	6th-8th
Center for Advanced Academics & Technology	Oak View	6th-7th

# High School Academic Magnet Programs

Program	School	Application Grades
IB (The International Baccalaureate Program)	Eastside	9th
The Cambridge Program	Gainesville	9th

# High School CTE Magnet Programs

Program	School	Application Grades
Academy of Entrepreneurship	Buchholz	9th
Academy of Finance	Buchholz	9th
Institute of Culinary Arts	Eastside	9th-10th
Academy of Future Teachers	Gainesville	9th-10th
Academy of Health Professions	Gainesville	9th

# High School CTE Magnet Programs

Program	School	Application Grades
Academy of Agribusiness	Hawthorne	9th-11th
Academy of Criminal Justice	Newberry	9th
Academy of Agriscience	Santa Fe	9th-10th
Institute of Biotechnology	Santa Fe	9th-10th
Academy of Veterinary Assisting	Santa Fe	9th-10th

# High School CTE Magnet Programs

Program	School	Application Grades
Academy of Automotive Technology	Loften	9th
Academy of Fire & EMS	Loften	9th
Academy of Gaming & Mobile Apps	Loften	9th
Institute of Graphic Art & Design	Loften	9th
Academy of Robotics & Engineering	Loften	9th
Academy of Media Production Technology	Loften	9th

# Translating the Application into Spanish

- To translate the application, use the drop-down menu in the top right corner and select Spanish.



# Process to Apply

- One single application for all programs - the application will be posted on the district's magnet website - [www.sbac.edu/magnet](http://www.sbac.edu/magnet)
- Common timeline for applications, notifications, etc.
- Students in Alachua County Public Schools, including Alachua eSchool and Charter Schools have information pre-loaded into the application.
- Students outside of Alachua County Public Schools will create an account and enter all information AND include a required form from current school.

# Process to Apply - logging into the system

- One common error of families with students in Alachua County Public Schools, including Alachua eSchool and Charter Schools is not using the student information to log into the application system.
  - The username is the student's Active Directory username they use at school - often first initial, middle initial, last name
  - The password is the student's birthdate - all numbers, no dashes or slashes. For example, January 9, 2016 would be 01092016.

# Process to Apply

- Students may apply for up to three magnet programs, **be sure to priority rank your choices (1st selection is most desired)**.
- Applicants will be able to upload two files (files can contain multiple docs, links, etc.) containing additional information to highlight personal accolades and strengths. Video formats are not accepted but a link to a video can be included within a file.
- Schools will review all on-time applications for their program(s).
- Schools select 50% of open seats, the other 50% are selected by random lottery of students who meet the minimum requirements. Only one application is required to be considered by the school and by the lottery.

# Minimum Requirements

For all levels/programs:

- Attendance Requirement - no more than 10 unexcused absences
- Discipline Requirements - no “major” referrals and no more than 4 out of school suspension days

Middle School and Career and Technical Education Programs:

- Include a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5

High School Academic Programs

- Include a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0

# Selection Process

- Schools will review all on-time applications for their program(s).
- Schools select 50% of open seats, the other 50% are selected by random lottery of students who meet the minimum requirements.
- The lottery runs in order of your preference (**priority ranking**).
- If selected for a lower ranked choice, will still run in the lottery and may be accepted or placed on the waitlist for higher ranked programs.
- Student acceptance emails will be sent for ALL programs the student was accepted to participate in. Student/Parents will select only 1 (unless accepting Cambridge with Health Professions or Future Teachers or IB with Culinary).

# Acceptances and additional information

- Following acceptance in a program, you may remain on the waitlist for higher ranked preferences through June 1st. **After June 1st, no changes between programs will be allowed.**
- Seats will be offered from the waiting lists as they become available through the first 15 days of school. Parents must accept or decline by the deadline on the offer or the seat will be marked as rescinded and the seat offered to the next student.
- Late applications may not be processed if there are no seats available in the program and/or they may be added to the bottom of the waiting list.

# Timeline

- Application opens Tuesday, January 14, 2025
- Application closes Tuesday, February 11, 2025
- Notification emails sent on or before March 25, 2025
- Parent/Guardian response due by the deadline provided in the offer (3 school/business days)
- Program placement locked in on June 1, 2024
- Rolling admission throughout the summer from waitlists

# Transportation

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School buses are assigned to transport students to and from magnet programs from an assigned pick-up location.

For more information about magnet transportation, please go to [www.sbac.edu/transportation](http://www.sbac.edu/transportation) and click on the Magnet Busing heading in the menu options on the left of the page.

- For program specific questions, please contact the school.
- For application and general questions, please email [alachuamagnets@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:alachuamagnets@gm.sbac.edu) or call 352-955-7121.