

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR OPTIONAL SCHOOLS?

Any student whose parent or guardian is a Davidson County resident at the time of application may apply.

DOES MY CHILD NEED A STUDENT ID NUMBER TO APPLY?

Yes. Every child enrolled in MNPS is required to have a nine-digit student ID number that begins with 190. The student ID number for current students can be found on the child's report card or requested at the child's school. An ID number for a new student can be acquired online at www.mnps.org/register-for-school or at one of the district's eight enrollment centers by presenting the child's birth certificate along with parent/guardian's proof of residency and a copy of your driver's license.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Families are encouraged to apply online at www.mnps.org/apply. All families wishing to apply online must create a parent profile that requires a username and password. The username must be a valid phone number or email address. If you need assistance with setting up an email address, please contact the Family Information Center at 615-259-INFO(4636). Free internet access is available at your nearest Nashville Public Library or the MNPS Family Information Center, located at 2601 Bransford Ave., Nashville, TN 37204. After you apply online, you will have the option of printing a confirmation or having it sent to you by email or text.

Paper applications can be submitted in person or by mail. Due to ongoing COVID-19 safety precautions, appointments are required to submit an application in person. Please contact the Family Information Center at 615-259-INFO(4636) to make an appointment. If mailing your application, obtain a "Return Receipt Requested" form from the U.S. Postal Service. It is the responsibility of parents to make sure that the Office of School Options receives the application. If mailed without a return receipt, the district cannot verify receipt of the application. **Faxed applications will not be accepted.**

Those interested in being included in the random selection process must apply online by 11:59 p.m. CST or submit an application to the Family Information Center, located at 2601 Bransford Ave., Nashville, TN 37204 (Berry Road entrance), by 4:30 p.m. CST, Friday, Feb. 12, 2021.

HOW DOES THE SELECTION PROCESS WORK?

A random computerized selection will be held to fill available seats in schools listed in this application (see pages 13-14). Only applications submitted and completed by the deadline of Feb. 12, 2021, will be included in the random selection process.

Results from the random selection process will be available on Selection Day, March 8, 2021. Selection Day results will be posted online at www.mnps.org and also available by contacting the MNPS Family Information Center at 615-259-INFO(4636). Your child's Selection Day results will be mailed March 10, 2021, to the address provided on the application.

School choices must be prioritized on the application from 1 (highest priority) to 7 (lowest priority). If your child is selected for a seat at a school, you will be notified via SMS, email or you will receive an acceptance letter in the mail, which must be returned by March 26, 2021. You may also accept your child's seat online and receive confirmation.

If your child is not selected for a particular school, he or she will be placed on a waitlist for the 2021-2022 school year, unless the school was listed lower on your priority list than a school where your child was offered a seat. Your child will be "opted out" of any schools, including guaranteed pathway schools, that were listed lower on your priority list than a school that your child was selected to attend. This process is designed to give families the option of attending their highest-ranked school where space is available. Please note that all waitlists for non-charter schools in grades K-12 are dissolved after the first five attendance days of school.



Once a student has accepted a seat at an optional school, his or her name will be removed from any currently attended or previously accepted school for the 2021-2022 school year. **Students must attend school on the first day or they will be considered a "no-show" and their seat will be filled by another student from the waitlist.**

Applicants in the 11th and 12th grade go through a transcript review process for admission to available seats. The random selection results will be available on March 26, 2021. All completed applications with transcript review documentation must be received on or before March 12, 2021, to be part of the random selection process.

A separate random selection process will be held for Pre-K seats in spring 2021. A separate application is required to apply for a preschool and Pre-K seat in all schools, including Stanford Montessori and Hull-Jackson Montessori.

DO I NEED TO RE-APPLY EVERY YEAR TO STAY IN AN OPTIONAL SCHOOL?

No. Current K-12 students do not have to re-apply to remain enrolled in their current optional school. In May, your child will receive a verification/continuation letter from his or her school to confirm his or her seat assignment for the 2021-2022 school year. No action is needed if your child is moving from one grade to the next in the same school. Do not complete a new application. Current Pre-K students must re-apply for kindergarten even if they have been placed by Exceptional Education or through the Pre-K lottery process. Students attending Hull-Jackson Montessori and Stanford Montessori DO NOT have to re-apply.

DOES MY CHILD HAVE A GUARANTEED PATHWAY ON TO MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL IF HE OR SHE ATTENDS AN OPTIONAL SCHOOL?

All MNPS students have a guaranteed pathway to their zoned school. For students attending an optional school outside their zone, there are some additional guaranteed pathways (see list in following question below). However, due to capacity constraints, the district cannot guarantee pathways into all of the zoned middle and high schools for out-of-zone students who attend those schools through open enrollment. If your child is out-of-zone attending an optional elementary or middle school that is not listed as having a pathway, then your child will need to apply by the deadline for the zoned feeder school and will be provided priority based on space availability. This is defined as "cluster preference." If the zoned feeder school is not listed in this Optional Schools Application, this indicates the school does not have capacity to accept out-of-zone students and you will not be able to continue to this school.

DO I NEED TO APPLY IF MY CHILD IS IN AN OPTIONAL SCHOOL WITH A GUARANTEED PATHWAY TO ANOTHER OPTIONAL SCHOOL?

Yes. If this is your child's last year to attend a school listed to the right and you want him/her to continue in the guaranteed pathway listed, you must return a pathway continuation form, which will be sent home

from your child's school. You may also confirm your pathway continuation by completing the Optional Schools Application online. The pathway continuation form or online application must be submitted by Feb. 12, 2021.

Elementary to Middle Pathways

- » Carter-Lawrence Elementary students who want to go to Rose Park Middle
- » Robert Churchwell Elementary students who want to go to John Early Middle
- » Glendale Elementary students who want to go to John Trotwood Moore Middle
- » Hattie Cotton Elementary students who want to go to Stratford STEM Magnet School (Lower Campus)
- » Jones Elementary students who want to go to Haynes Middle
- » Lockeland Elementary students who want to go to East Nashville Middle
- » Sylvan Park Elementary students who want to go to Haynes Middle

Middle to High Pathways

- » Isaiah T. Creswell Middle School of the Arts students who want to go to Nashville School of the Arts (*limited to 30 seats*)
- » East Nashville Middle students who want to go to East Nashville High
- » Haynes Middle students who want to go to East Nashville High
- » Head Middle current sixth or eighth grade students who qualify to go to Martin Luther King Jr. School
- » John Early Middle students who qualify to go to Hume-Fogg High
- » LEAD Brick Church students who want to go to LEAD Academy
- » LEAD Cameron students who want to go to LEAD Academy
- » Liberty Collegiate students who want to go to RePublic High
- » KA @ the Crossings students who want to go to Knowledge Academies High
- » Knowledge Academy students who want to go to Knowledge Academies High
- » LEAD Southeast Middle students who want to go to LEAD Southeast High
- » Meigs Middle students who qualify to go to Hume-Fogg High
- » Nashville Prep students who want to go to RePublic High
- » Rose Park Middle students who qualify to go to Martin Luther King Jr. School

There will be a summer pathway offered to students attending Head, Rose Park, John Early or Meigs middle schools who did not qualify in the fall and are now eligible to attend Martin Luther King Jr School and Hume-Fogg

High School based off of TN Ready Scores and a GPA of 85 or higher from the second, third and fourth nine weeks scores with no failing grades. Summer pathway notification will occur either in July or August after the State of Tennessee standardized testing scores are available. If you are expecting a pathway form after June and will be on vacation in July or August, please email schooloptions@mnps.org for more information.

MAY I APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE OPTIONAL SCHOOL?

Yes, and families are encouraged to do so. You may apply for up to seven school options, prioritized in order of preference. Families who list few options or only schools in high demand may not be selected for any of the schools on their application.

WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

Charter schools are publicly-financed, privately-operated schools. Based on current state law, all charter school operators in Tennessee must be nonprofit organizations.

CAN I APPLY TO A CHARTER SCHOOL WITH THIS APPLICATION?

Yes. You can apply any time throughout the year to the charter schools that choose to take part in the Optional Schools Application process. Some charter schools choose to use their own application process. Contact the school to apply to a charter school not included on the application.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY APPLICATION IS INCOMPLETE?

Incomplete applications will not be accepted online or in person. If you submit an incomplete paper application by mail, we will mail it back. We will not be responsible if your application does not get back to you in time to resubmit. If your application is received after the Feb. 12, 2021, deadline, your child will not be included in the random selection process for grades K-10. All late applications (including late re-submitted applications) will be added to the end of the waitlist.

CAN FAMILIES APPLY TO PREKINDERGARTEN WITH THIS APPLICATION?

No. A separate application is required to apply for a Pre-K seat in all schools. This also includes all Stanford Montessori and Hull-Jackson Montessori preschool (3-year-olds) and Pre-K (4-year-olds) seats. A separate application and random selection process will be held for all Pre-K seats in the spring of 2021.

WHAT IS NEEDED TO APPLY IF I AM A RISING JUNIOR OR SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL?

All 11th and 12th grade applicants must provide a complete copy of their high school transcript, latest report card and optional schools application to the principal of the high

school to which they are seeking to transfer. Principals will have up to three business days to review your child's transcript and application. Upon completion of the review, the principal will attach a signed review form to your child's optional schools application before you may submit the application. Applications may be submitted beginning January 25, 2021. All completed applications received by March 12, 2021, will be in the random selection process for rising juniors and seniors.

WHAT ARE THE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACADEMIC MAGNET SCHOOLS?

A student must meet two requirements to qualify for entrance into an academic magnet school: academic grades and standardized test scores. Please see pages 9 and 10 for complete details on the 2021-2022 requirements.

WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR SPECIALTY SCHOOLS?

Nashville School of the Arts (NSA) and Isaiah T. Creswell Middle School of the Arts require students to audition. NSA and Isaiah T. Creswell Middle School of the Arts will notify all applicants about times for auditions. NSA will hold 30 seats for qualifying students who will transition from Isaiah T. Creswell Middle School of the Arts. Students applying to these schools must include them in the list of prioritized schools in their application.

MNPS Virtual School and Nashville Big Picture High School require students to interview. The schools will contact applicants to arrange interviews. Early College High School also has academic requirements (see page 9).

HOW DOES SIBLING PREFERENCE WORK?

Sibling preference is given to students who have a sibling attending the school to which they are applying, as long as the sibling will still be at the school in the 2021-2022 school year.

Additionally, when two siblings apply to the same school and only one sibling is selected, if the parent accepts the seat, the sibling that did not get selected will be moved to the sibling priority waitlist. A student with sibling preference will be offered a seat from the waitlist when a vacancy becomes available.

The following schools do not have sibling preference: East Nashville Magnet High School, East Nashville Middle School, Head Middle School, Hume-Fogg High School, Isaiah T. Creswell Middle School of the Arts, Martin Luther King Jr. School, Meigs Middle School, the Early College High School, MNPS Virtual School, Nashville School of the Arts and Rose Park Middle School. All other schools, including charter schools, do have sibling preference.

WHAT IS A GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITY ZONE (GPZ)?

A geographic priority zone (GPZ) gives admission preference to families who live in a defined geographic area around an optional school. Admission is not guaranteed for families located in a GPZ. However, they

do receive priority placement during the random selection process. Use the Zone Finder tool online at www.mnps.org or call 615-259-INFO(4636) to determine if you are located in a GPZ for a school.

WHAT IS CLUSTER PREFERENCE?

Some optional schools offer admission preference to families living within a geographic high school cluster. Additionally, out-of-zone students attending an optional school who wish to continue in the zoned feeder pathway will receive admission preference if the feeder school is an optional school. **Parents must apply before the application deadline in order to receive cluster preference.**

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION INTO KINDERGARTEN?

Students eligible for kindergarten must be 5 years of age on or before Aug. 15, 2021. If your child will turn 5 years of age between Aug. 16, 2021, and Sept. 30, 2021, you may contact MNPS to ask about Kindergarten Readiness testing by calling 615-259-INFO(4636). Students eligible for the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment can submit a school choice application, but if selected for an optional school must complete testing and meet the cut off score by March 31, 2021, to complete the acceptance and enrollment process. Students who do not meet the cut off score can apply for Pre-K. Students tested after the March 31, 2021, deadline will not be eligible for enrollment in the school site selected through the random selection process.

Early admission into kindergarten is available for students who qualify for gifted/talented services. If your child is already enrolled in Encore, a verification letter must be attached to your child's Optional Schools application. If your child is not in Encore, families may request an evaluation by the MNPS Psychology Department to determine if he or she qualifies for gifted services.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GLENDALE SPANISH IMMERSION?

- » Any student entering kindergarten or first grade may apply for Glendale.
- » Applicants in second and third grade will be required to pass a language proficiency test before being accepted to the school.
- » No applications will be accepted for fourth grade.

HOW LONG CAN A STUDENT REMAIN ON A WAITLIST?

Students in grades K-12 are kept on waitlists through the fifth day of school in the 2021-2022 school year. After the fifth day, the waitlists are eliminated with the exception of charter schools. Charter school waitlists continue throughout the entire school year.

IS THERE TRANSPORTATION FOR OPTIONAL SCHOOLS?

In most cases, school bus transportation is not provided to schools offered in the Optional Schools Application. Transportation is provided to students living in the geographic priority zone (GPZ) for Glendale Elementary Spanish Immersion School. In addition, several charter schools provide transportation. Contact individual schools to determine transportation availability.

Public bus transportation through WeGo Public Transit is provided at no cost to all high school students through the StrIDe program, where student ID cards double as city bus passes. The same program is available to middle school students attending an optional school with the exception of charter middle schools. Parent permission for middle school students is required to receive a StrIDe bus pass. Parents may contact WeGo customer service by calling 615-862-5960 or visit www.nashvillemta.org to plan a route and view WeGo availability.



**HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?
CONTACT THE FAMILY INFORMATION CENTER
AT 615-259-INFO(4636) OR VISIT WWW.MNPS.ORG.**

- Incoming 11th grade applicants to Early College High School must have:
 - a minimum score of 21 on the ACT or
 - a minimum score of the below on the SAT
 - › 490 in English
 - › 500 in math
 - › 500 in critical reading

DAVIDSON COUNTY STUDENTS WHO ARE NEW TO MNPS

A Davidson County student who is new to MNPS, the state of Tennessee, is currently a home school student, and/or currently enrolled in a private school may qualify with the following:

- » Meeting the academic grade average and subject specifications as stated above.
- » Meeting the testing requirements for eligibility by submitting test results from a nationally normed achievement test that meets a minimum score. Those can be met and or determined by the following:
 - In most cases, a state standardized test from another state, though it could also be a privately given test that is nationally normed and reaching the minimum score set at a sum of 14 national stanine for Reading/English/Language Arts and Math combined. In order to obtain these results, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will need to contact their child’s previous school or school district.
 - If a child has not taken a recent nationally normed achievement test, parents may choose to pay for private testing. The minimum score is set at a sum of 14 national stanine for Reading/English/Language Arts and Math combined for private testing.

ENGLISH LEARNERS

- » English learners who are currently enrolled in MNPS can meet the standardized test requirement with just one subject instead of two: either Reading/English/Language Arts or Math.
- » For entrance into academic magnets during the 2021-2022 school year, an English learner (EL) student can meet the assessment requirements in any one of the following ways:
 - An EL student will meet the requirement with a national stanine of 6 or higher in either Reading or Math from a 2019-2020 MAP Test.
 - For Meigs Middle School, Martin Luther King Jr. School and Hume-Fogg High School, an EL student currently enrolled in MNPS will also qualify with recent (2020-2021) test results from a nationally normed achievement test that meet a minimum score of 7 national stanine or above.
 - For Early College High School, an EL student currently enrolled in MNPS will qualify with recent test scores from a nationally normed achievement test that meet a minimum score of 5 national stanine or above.
 - An EL student who is new to MNPS or perhaps even new to Tennessee can qualify by submitting test results from a nationally normed achievement test that meet a minimum score of 7 national stanine or above for either Reading/Language/Arts and/or Math.

** Note: Normally students need a minimum score of a sum of 14 national stanines for Reading and Math (or a 7 in one subject for English Learners) in order to qualify for Meigs Middle School, Martin Luther King Jr. School and Hume-Fogg High School. While that standard is still in place for tests administered in a secure testing environment in 2020-2021, students qualify this year with a sum of 13 national stanines (or a 6 in one subject for English Learners) for tests administered in 2019-2020. This adjustment is to accommodate students that made significant academic growth in the past year but did not have the opportunity to demonstrate that progress due to the limited opportunities to administer standardized tests in the current school year.*



HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?
CONTACT THE FAMILY INFORMATION CENTER
AT 615-259-INFO(4636) OR VISIT WWW.MNPS.ORG.