

The AACPS Magnet Application Process

Frequently Asked Questions

When should I apply to a Magnet Program?

Apply in the fall before you would enter that program. For example, if you hope to attend STEM in 9th grade, you will apply in the fall of grade 8. Some programs offer additional grades for application. Please visit the specific magnet website for further details.

How can I submit an application?

Complete the Online Magnet Application, posted on the Magnet website. This application opens in mid-October. Go to aacps.org/magnet for the specific dates.

Can I submit a paper application?

No, the Magnet Office does not accept paper applications. However, if you have trouble accessing a computer, please contact your Counseling office at your school for help with submitting an application.

Is it important for me to submit my application as soon as the applications open?

No, our seats are **not** offered on a first-come, first-served basis. All eligible applicants who submit an application before the deadline will be included in the lottery.

How many Magnet programs can I apply to?

You can apply to as many programs as are available for your grade level in your area. For each program you wish to apply for, you will have to submit a new application. Apex Arts applicants can submit an application for **TWO** different Arts Areas/Majors.

How will I be evaluated?

The Magnet Office will review grade average, classes taken, and Audition scores (Apex Arts only). Because the goal of these programs is to include as many students as possible, grades are only one component of the evaluation process.

What is the Lottery?

If there are more eligible applicants than seats available for a Magnet Program, a randomized, non-weighted computerized lottery will be conducted to assign on-time, eligible applicants to either a seat in that program or a position on the wait-list. The Magnet Office will not know if a Lottery will need to be conducted until all on-time applications are evaluated.

Are students placed differently in the lottery based on their grades?

No. All eligible applications are treated exactly the same in the lottery and have the same chance of getting a seat in a Magnet Program. The Magnet Office does not use a weighting system for any students in the lottery, regardless of a student's academic achievements, number of applications submitted, siblings in the program, or any other special circumstances. There are no exceptions.

Visit us online!

Additional information about the Application Process is available at

www.aacps.org/magnet