

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

January 19, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: AP Capstone and Magnet Program (12-06-2022-01-C, -D, -E)

During the *Public Comments* section of the agenda, Board members requested the following:

Question C

Ms. Rivera-Oven requested additional information regarding the AP Capstone program and the lack of districtwide representation, and middle school language offerings and their inconsistent application, as noted in Praneel Suvarna's testimony.

Response C

AP Capstone is a diploma program from College Board based on two year-long advanced placement (AP) courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. Currently, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has five high schools that offer the AP Seminar and AP Research as part of AP Capstone. We are expanding the number of schools to six in the 2023-2024 school year with conversations to identify more high schools that could offer AP Capstone and exploring ways to make this opportunity available to more students.

Currently, we offer Spanish at all middle schools, French at 37 middle schools, and Chinese at 7 middle schools. Regarding middle school full-year courses that follow the high school semester 1A/1B course structure, currently, seven middle schools offer the choice of French 1A/1B or 1A to sixth graders. All middle schools that offer French to seventh graders have either one or the other, but not a choice of 1A or French 1A/1B. Nine middle schools offer the option of Spanish 1A/1B or 1A to their sixth graders. Thirteen middle schools offer the choice of Spanish 1A/1B or 1A to their seventh graders.

Question D

Mr. Kim requested information regarding the AP Capstone program and the possibility of making it available through virtual classrooms.

Response D

Currently, the MCPS Virtual Academy offers 18 AP courses. MCPS staff will explore the option to offer the AP Capstone through the MCPS Virtual Academy.

Question E

Ms. Harris requested information regarding the possibility of providing an overview of the magnet program and process to the Board and community, i.e. course catalog/offerings.

Response E

The MCPS admission process for [regional and countywide programs](#) in elementary, middle, and high schools is included in the attachment. The magnet program process is the same for school year 2022–2023.

Middle School Courses:

- The middle school math, science, and computer science programs at Roberto W. Clemente and Takoma Park middle schools include courses in the three areas listed for Grades 6–8.
- The middle school humanities and communications programs include courses in social studies, English, world studies and media at Eastern and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. middle schools
- The [Middle School Magnet Consortium](#) includes Argyle, A. Mario Loiederman, and Parkland middle schools. Each has a themed magnet program.

Following are links to the high school criteria-based programs and their four-year courses:

1. [Montgomery Blair Communication Arts Programs \(CAP\)](#)
2. [Montgomery Blair Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science \(SMCS\)](#)
3. [Albert Einstein Visual Art Center](#)
4. [John F Kennedy International Baccalaureate \(IB\)](#)
5. [John F Kennedy Leadership Training Institute \(LTI\)](#)
6. [Richard Montgomery International Baccalaureate \(IB\)](#)
7. [Poolesville Global Ecology](#)
8. [Poolesville Humanities](#)
9. [Poolesville Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science \(SMCS\)](#)
10. [Springbrook International Baccalaureate \(IB\)](#)
11. [Watkins Mill International Baccalaureate \(IB\)](#)
12. [Wheaton Biomedical Program](#)
13. [Wheaton Engineering Program](#)

If you have questions, please contact Ms. Niki T. Hazel, associate superintendent of curriculum and instructional programs, Office of the Chief Academic Officer, via email.

MBM:PKM:PAP:NTH:IL:jpm

Attachment

Copy to:

Executive Staff
Ms. Clark
Ms. Franklin
Mrs. LaGrange

Dr. Logan
Mrs. Scavullo
Mrs. Vandenplas
Ms. Webb

MCPS Admission Process for Regional/Countywide Programs Overview

Agenda

- Criteria-based admission process for Grade 3, 5 and 8
- Evolvement of the admission process
- Questions and clarification

Annual Report

Internal Summary of programs

Overview: MCPS Admission Process for Regional/Countywide Programs

- MCPS offers over 110 regional/countywide centrally-managed programs with an admission process
- Entrance into these programs ranges from Kindergarten to Grade 12
- The admission process includes both interest (lottery) and criteria-based (meet minimum criteria/lottery or review team)

Overview: MCPS Admission Process for Regional/Countywide Programs

- The recent expansion and refinements of programming has been in response to MCPS' commitment on [equity](#), the [Metis Study](#) and the [ESG Report/Evaluation](#)
- Each program has an admission process that involves the following:

Outreach/Communication

Application/Central Review

Student Placement

Parent and School Notification

Appeal

Articulation

For Today:

Focus on Criteria-based Admission Process

Elementary

- Centers for Enriched Studies (13 sites)

Middle

- Humanities & Communication (2 sites)
- Math, Science & Computer Science (2 sites)

High

- Regional/countywide hs application programs; various themes (13 sites)

Our **Commitment** to our Students Despite the Impact of Covid-19

MCPS...

- ❑ Is committed to serving the enriched academic needs of students in every school
- ❑ Offers a continuum of services for enriched and accelerated students from elementary to high school
- ❑ Is committed to equity being reflected in all instructional programs and identification processes

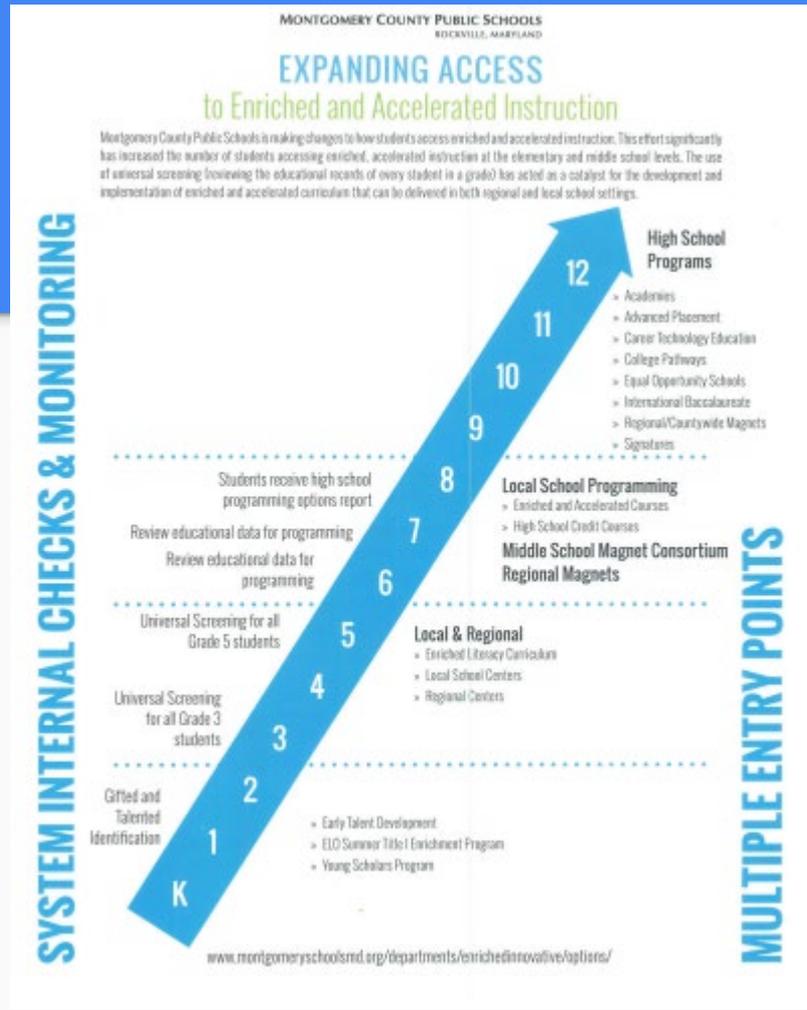
MCPS' GT Policy

MCPS GT Policy (Purpose)

- To reaffirm gifted and talented education as a high priority for MCPS
- To affirm that acceleration and enrichment of the entire academic program is appropriate
- To provide direction to staff and community that places special emphasis on addressing the cognitive and affective needs of high-achieving and potentially high-achieving students
- To extend each child's intellectual boundaries and help all students achieve their highest potential
- To ensure that differentiated educational programs and/or services are systematically provided for gifted and talented students in all Grades K-12, including gifted students with learning disabilities or other special needs and to assure that gifted and talented students are offered an appropriate level and pace of instruction in each of our schools

Multiple On-Ramps

Updated graphic will be available in August 2022



Elementary: Continuum of Services for Enriched Literacy for 2022-2023

All Elementary Schools:

- Benchmark Advance with Challenge
- Benchmark Advance with Enrichment Grades 4 and 5 (Developed by AEI)

Elementary: Continuum of Services for Enriched Literacy for 2022-2023

All Elementary Schools:

- Benchmark Advance with Challenge
- [Benchmark Advance](#) with Enrichment Grades 4 and 5 (Developed by AEI)

62 Elementary Schools:

- [Enriched Literacy Curriculum](#) (ELC)

Or

13 Elementary (Regional & Local):

- [Centers for Enriched Studies](#)

(Math identification is a separate process)

How does the admission/central review process for Grade 3 students work?

1. Apply Multiple

Measures

- Grade 3 Marking Period 2 Reading 'A' and
- Grade 3 Marking Period 2 Writing or Social Studies 'A'
- Reading level 'On' or 'Above'
- 85th Percentile Local Norm on MAP-R
- Student services (FARMS, ESOL, 504, Sped); A different local norm is applied
- Private school students/those with missing info are reviewed by expert panel

2. Identify Students & Run Lottery

- All identified students will receive enriched services (local, CES)
- Communicate results to schools and parents
- CES placement is by lottery only

(Math identification is separate)

3. Accept, Decline, & Appeal

- Placed students to CES must accept/decline
- Non-identified students may appeal
- Local schools section for identified students not placed in CES

Notable Items:

- No parent application required
- Teacher recommendations are made through the report card
- All students in Grade 3 are considered
- Students with services are considered in this process (ESOL, FARMS, Sped, 504)
- Process is race neutral, school and name blind
- Research regarding MCPS' ELC and CES programs

How does the admission/central review process for Grade 3 students work?

1. Apply Multiple Measures

- Grade 3 Marking Period 2 Reading 'A' and
- Grade 3 Marking Period 2 Writing or Social Studies 'A'
- Reading level 'On' or 'Above'
- 85th Percentile Local Norm on MAP- R OR 70th Percentile Local Norm on MAP-R for students with services

2. Identify Students & Run Lottery

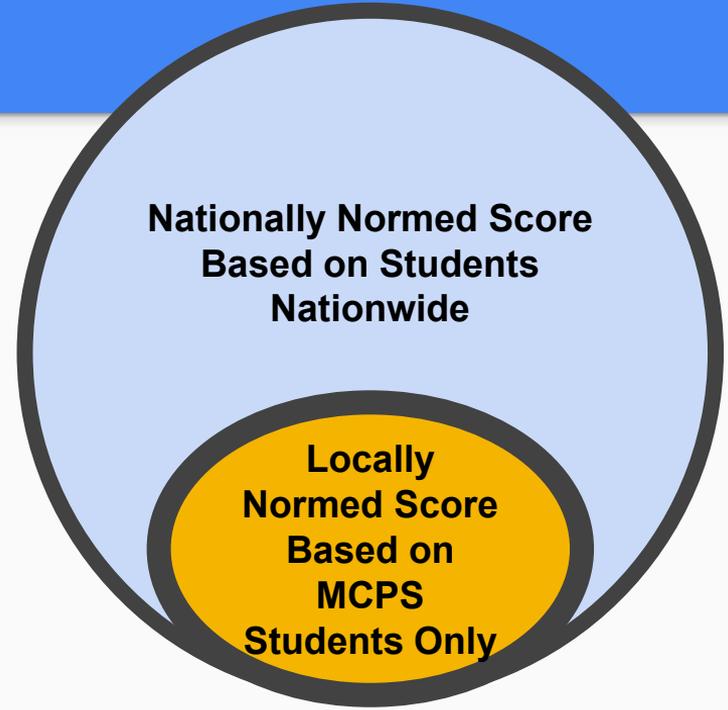
- All identified students will receive enriched services (local, CES)
- Communicate results to schools and parents
- CES placement is by lottery only

3. Accept, Decline, & Appeal

- Placed students to CES must accept/decline
- Non-identified students may appeal
- Local schools section for identified students not placed in CES

What are locally normed scores?

- MCPS locally normed scores are designed to examine test takers in relation to one another within MCPS. As part of the CES identification process, scores obtained on the MAP R assessment will be locally normed.
- The socioeconomic status of elementary schools will be used to establish local norms for the MAP R. In establishing local norms, students in schools with similar FARMS– rates were grouped together for comparison.



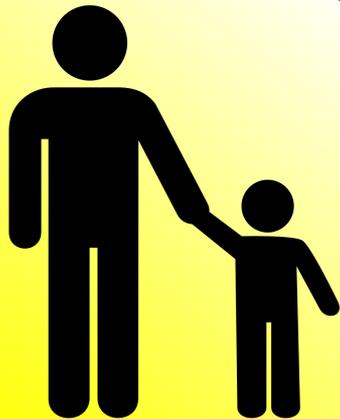
Scott Peters; [Article 2019 on Local Norm](#)

Scott Peters; [Article from Baltimore County & Local Norms](#)

Communication: Central Review For Grade 3

- [Principal memorandum](#)
- Public Information Office - Information on social media (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter)
- Direct communication to parents/guardians of Grade 3 ([English](#) and [Spanish](#))
- [Information](#) posted on the MCPS website and MCPS Cable Channel
- Connect-ed communication about information meetings
- Partner with parent/community stakeholders to share information
- Collaborate with numerous central office partners (counseling, curriculum, family engagement, ESOL, Title 1, etc)

What is the Family Experience?



Late Fall

- Receive information on the Grade 3 central review process
- Invited to a parent information meeting and to review the website
- Receive additional information from the school

Winter

- Reminder information about parent information meeting
- Parent information meeting is held
- Grade 3 students complete winter Map R at local school

Spring

- Receive results of central review and lottery process.
- Additional information is placed on the MCPS website
- Placed students into CES must accept/decline by the deadline.
- Appeals are accepted until the deadline.
- Appeal and articulation process occurs.

Key Information for Parents



- Students who were identified for enriched services are part of a lottery pool from which CES placements occur.
- Placements into CES only occurs through the lottery (not appeals).
- All students in the lottery pool are guaranteed enriched literacy services in Grade 4 either in CES or through local services. These parents are ineligible for appealing.
- Parents of students who are not identified for enriched literacy services may appeal.

Appeal Process

Process by which parents appeal the decision of their student not being identified for Grade 4 enriched literacy services. The appeal process will not place students into the CES program.

What are the levels of appeals?

1. DCCAPS (Div of Consortia Choice & Application Program Services)
2. Superintendent
3. BOE

Who Can Appeal?

Parents of Grade 3 students who are not identified for enriched services through central review **may** appeal

(Students who were identified for enriched services **may not** appeal)

What the parent appeal should include?

Parents should include one of the following:

- There was an error in the original information during the central review.
- There is new information, a hardship, or unique circumstance that impacted the student's performance data that was not available at the time of the central review.

(New information that occurred after marking period 2 is not considered.)

Middle School: Continuum of Enriched Services for 2022-2023

Available at all middle schools

- **High School Credit Courses**
- **Enriched Courses**

[Applied Investigations to Mathematics \(Grade 6\) and Historical Inquiry into Global Humanities \(Grade 6\)](#)

- **Honors Courses**

Middle School: Continuum of Enriched Services for 2022-2023

Available at all middle schools

- **High School Credit Courses**

- **Enriched Courses**

[Applied Investigations to Mathematics \(Grade 6\) and Historical Inquiry into Global Humanities \(Grade 6\)](#)

- **Honors Courses**

Regional Criteria-based Programs (4 sites)

- [Humanities & Communication](#)
- [Math, Science and Computer Science](#)

[Eastern & King](#) (Humanities)
[Takoma & Clemente](#) (Math)

or

Middle School Magnet Consortia ([MSMC](#), 3 sites)

[Argyle](#), [Loiederman](#) & [Parkland](#)

Middle School Regional Program Communication

Information is shared through various channels:

- ❑ [Principal memorandum](#)
- ❑ Public Information Office-Information on social media (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter)
- ❑ Direct communication to parents/guardians of Grade 5 ([English](#) and Spanish)
- ❑ Post information on the MCPS website and MCPS Cable Channel
- ❑ Partner with parent/community stakeholders to share information
- ❑ Collaborate with numerous central office partners (counseling, curriculum, family engagement, ESOL, Title 1, etc)

How does the admission/central review process for Grade 5 students work?

1. Apply Multiple Measures

- 'A' in both reading and writing
- Above grade level in reading from Grade 5 MP 1 report card
- Locally normed minimum of 85th percentile on (fall) MAP-R.
- Student with services (FARMS, Sped, IEP, 504) have a different local norm applied

Humanities

2. Identify Students & Run Lottery

- All identified students will receive enriched services (local, regional)
- Communicate results to schools and parents
- Regional placement is by lottery only

3. Accept, Decline, & Appeal

- Placed students to the regional program must accept/decline
- Non-identified students may appeal
- Local schools section for identified students not placed in regional programs

How does the admission/central review process for Grade 5 students work?

1. Apply Multiple Measures

- 'A' in both science and math
- On grade level in reading from Grade 5 MP 1 report card
- Locally normed of 85th percentile on (fall) MAP-M.
- Student with services (FARMS, Sped, IEP, 504) have a different local norm applied

Math

2. Identify Students & Run Lottery

- All identified students will receive enriched services (local, regional)
- Communicate results to schools and parents
- Regional placement is by lottery only

3. Accept, Decline, & Appeal

- Placed students to regional must accept/decline
- Non-identified students may appeal
- Local schools section for identified students not placed in regional programs

Notable Items:

- No parent application required
- Teacher recommendations are made through the report card; no additional information collected
- All students in Grade 5 are considered
- Students with services are considered in this process (ESOL, FARMS, Sped, 504)
- Process is race neutral, school and name blind
- Research prepared regarding MCPS' enriched courses

How does the admission/central review process for Grade 5 students work?

1. Apply Multiple Measures

- 'A' in both reading and writing
- Above reading grade level on Marking Period 1 report card from Grade 5
- Locally normed minimum of 85th percentile on (fall) MAP-M.

Literacy

2. Identify Students & Run Lottery

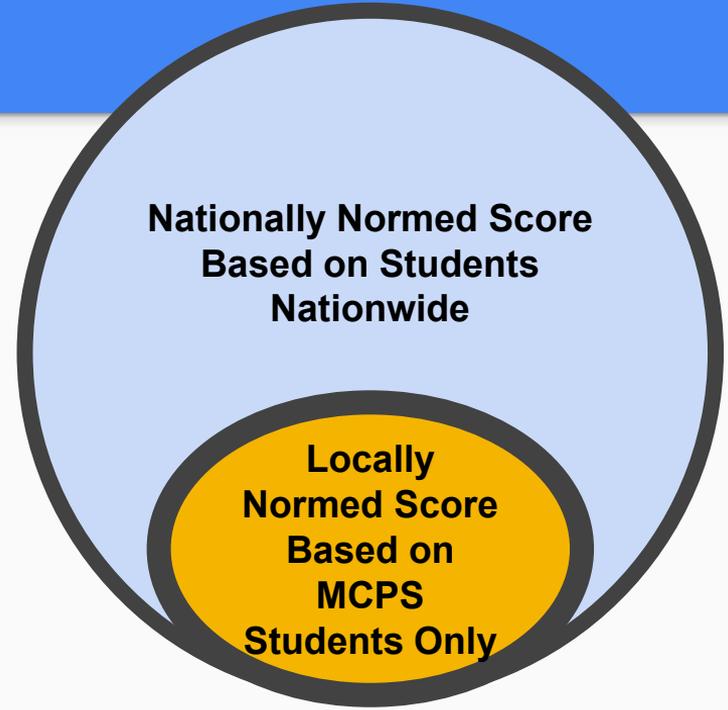
- All identified students will receive enriched services (local, regional)
- Communicate results to schools and parents
- Regional placement is by lottery only

3. Accept, Decline, & Appeal

- Placed students to regional must accept/decline
- Non-identified students may appeal
- Local schools section for identified students not placed in regional programs

What are locally normed scores?

- MCPS locally normed scores are designed to examine test takers in relation to one another within MCPS. As part of the middle school enriched services identification process, scores obtained on the MAP R and MAP M assessment will be locally normed.
- The socioeconomic status of elementary schools will be used to establish local norms for the MAP R. In establishing local norms, students in schools with similar FARMS– rates were grouped together for comparison.



Family Experience



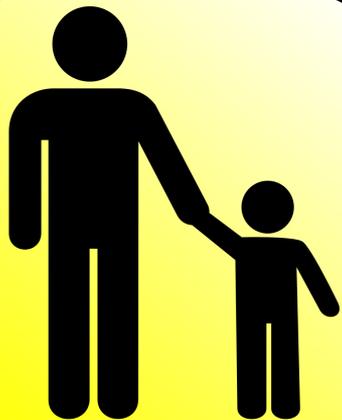
Fall

- Receive information on the Grade 5 central review process
- Parents directed to information posted on MCPS website
- Invited to a parent information meeting
- Receive additional information from the school
- Reminder information about parent information meeting
- Parent information meeting is held
- Grade 5 students complete MAP R and MAP M at local school

Winter

- Receive results of central review and lottery process.
- Additional information is placed on the MCPS website
- Placed students into regionals must accept/decline by the deadline.
- Appeals are accepted until the deadline.
- Appeal and articulation process occurs.

Key Messages for Parents



- Students who were identified for enriched services are part of a lottery pool from which regional placements occur.
- Placements into regional programs for math and humanities only occur through the lottery (not appeals).
- All students in the lottery pool are guaranteed enriched literacy services in Grade 6 either in regional programming or through local services. These parents are ineligible for appealing.
- Parents of students who are not identified for enriched services in either math or humanities may appeal.

Appeal Process

Process by which parents appeal the decision of their student not being identified for math or humanities. The appeal process will not place students into the regional program.

What are the levels of appeals?

1. DCCAPS (Div of Consortia Choice & Application Program Services)
2. Superintendent
3. BOE

Who Can Appeal?

Parents of Grade 5 students who are not identified for enriched services through central review may appeal

(Students who were identified for enriched services **may not** appeal)

What the parent appeal should include?

Parents should include one of the following:

- There was an error in the original information during the central review.
- There is new information, a hardship, or unique circumstance that impacted the student's performance data that was not available at the time of the central review.

(New information that occurred after marking period 2 is not considered.)

High School: Enriched Services for 2022-2023

All High Schools offer:

- Career Readiness Programs
- Local signature, academy or pathway programs
- Early college
- AP Courses
- Honors Courses

High School: Enriched Services for 2022-2023

All High Schools offer:

- Career Readiness Programs
- Local signature, academy or pathway programs
- Early college
- AP Courses
- Honors Courses

or

High School
Regional/
Countywide
Application
Programs

(32 programs:
interest and lottery)

Regional/Countywide Programs: Who is it For?

The high school regional/countywide application programs (criteria-based) are designed for students who have an interest in the thematic program and demonstrate an academic need for enriched and accelerated instruction at the high school level in this themed area.

High School Regional Program Communication

- ❑ Principal memorandum
- ❑ Public Information Office- Information on social media (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter)
- ❑ Direct communication to parents/guardians of Grade 8 (English and Spanish)
- ❑ Direct communication to parents/guardians of Grade 8 students who are eligible for additional programs (criteria-based)
- ❑ **Personalized student report placed in ParentVUE for Grade 8 students to learn which programs they are eligible to apply**
- ❑ Post information on the MCPS website and MCPS Cable Channel
- ❑ Partner with parent/community stakeholders to share information
- ❑ Collaborate with numerous central office partners (counseling, curriculum, family engagement, ESOL, Title 1, etc)

How does the admission/central review process for Grade 8 students work?

1. Students Apply and Academic Profiles Assembled

- Humanities (social studies/English report cards, MAP R, short essay, brief responses, student services)
- Math/Sciences (math/ science report cards, MAP M, short essay, brief responses, student services)
- IB (social studies/ English/ world language report cards, MAP R, short essay, brief responses, students services)
- (Various criteria vary for other programs)

2. Trained Review Committees Make Recommendations

- Student academic profiles are assembled **absent** name, school and race
- Review committees evaluate students using 'guiding questions'
- Review committee make recommendations on the students who demonstrate the greatest need and build a wait pool for vacancies

3. Accept, Decline, & Appeal

- Placed students to the regional program must accept/decline
- Not selected students may appeal

Key Items:

- A review panel evaluates for student academic need - therefore, no set criteria threshold is set for high school programs
- About 10% of MCPS Grade 8 students apply to criteria-based programming (~1500)
- Expansion of interest based regional programs shows an increased application and placement of students in our focus groups
- Regional criteria-based programs is one way MCPS students can get their academic needs met

How does the admission/central review process for Grade 8 students work?

1. Students Apply and Academic Profiles Assembled

- Humanities (social studies/English report cards, MAP R, short essay, brief responses, student services)
- Math/Sciences (math/ science report cards, MAP M, short essay, brief responses, student services)
- IB (social studies/ English/ world language report cards, MAP R, short essay, brief responses, students services)
- (Various criteria vary for other programs)

2. Trained Review Committees Make Recommendations

- Student academic profiles are assembled **absent** name, school and race
- Review committees evaluate students using 'guiding questions'
- Review committee make recommendations on the students who demonstrate the greatest need and build a wait pool for vacancies

3. Accept, Decline, & Appeal

- Placed students to the regional program must accept/decline
- Not selected students may appeal

Family Experience



Fall

- Receive information on the Grade 8 hs application process
- Personalized student eligibility information is placed in ParentVUE
- Information posted on MCPS website
- Invited to regional/program parent information meeting
- Invited to individual program meetings by host school
- Receive additional information from their middle school
- Reminder information about parent information meetings
- Parent information meetings are held
- Grade 8 students complete MAP R and MAP M at local school

Winter

- Receive summary results in one letter of all programs applied to
- Receive individual results per program
- Additional information is placed on the MCPS website
- Placed students into regionals must accept/decline by the deadline.
- Appeals are accepted until the deadline.
- Appeal and articulation process occurs.

Appeal Process

Process by which parents appeal the decision of their student not being identified for math or humanities. The appeal process will not place students into the regional program.

What are the levels of appeals?

1. Program Coordinator
2. Superintendent
3. BOE

Who Can Appeal?

Parents of Grade 8 students who are not selected for the program they applied

(Students who are in the wait pool are automatically reviewed for placement into the program)

What the parent appeal should include?

Parents should include one of the following:

- There was an error in the original information during the central review.
- There is new information, a hardship, or unique circumstance that impacted the student's performance data that was not available at the time of the central review.

MCPS Admission Process 2019-2020

Pre-Covid: Grade 3 and 5

- No parent application, central review to be further evaluated (CogAT)
- Criteria:
 - External Criteria: MAP R, MAP M**, CogAT (local norm)
 - School Data: Report cards, reading level
 - Student Voice: Brief non-scored response to a prompt
 - Student Services: ESOL, FARMS, Sped, 504
- Review committees; name, race and school blind

**Grade 5 only

Pre-Covid: Grade 8

- Student application on ParentVUE
- Targeted marketing
- Criteria:
 - External Criteria: MAP R, MAP M, CogAT
 - School Data: Teacher Recommendations, Report Cards
 - Student Voice: Short essay (scored)
 - Student Services: ESOL, FARMS, Sped, 504
- Review committees; name race and school blind

MCPS Admission Process 2020-2021

Remote Instruction: Grade 3 & 5

- No parent application, central review
- Criteria:
 - External Criteria: MAP R, MAP M**, CogAT (local norm)
 - School Data: Report cards, reading level
 - Student Voice: Brief non-scored response to a prompt
 - Student Services: ESOL, FARMS, Sped, 504
- Year 1: Academic criteria threshold and lottery

**Grade 5 only

Remote Instruction: Grade 8

- Student application on ParentVUE
- Targeted marketing
- Criteria:
 - External Criteria: MAP R, MAP M, CogAT
 - School Data: Teacher Recommendations, Report Card
 - Student Voice: Short essay, Brief responses (non scored)
 - Student Services: ESOL, FARMS, Sped, 504
- Review committees

MCPS Admission Process 2021-2022

In Person: Grade 3 & 5

- No parent application, central review
- Criteria:
 - External Criteria: MAP R, MAP M**, CogAT (local norm)
 - School Data: Report cards, reading level
 - Student Voice: Brief non-scored response to a prompt
 - Student Services: ESOL, FARMS, Sped, 504
- Year 2: Academic criteria threshold and lottery

**Grade 5 only

In Person: Grade 8

- Student application on ParentVUE
- Targeted marketing
- Criteria:
 - External Criteria: MAP R, MAP M, CogAT
 - School Data: Teacher Recommendations, Report Card
 - Student Voice: Short essay, Brief responses (non scored)
 - Student Services: ESOL, FARMS, Sped, 504
- Review committees

MCPS Admission Process 2022-2023 (PROPOSED)

In person: Grade 3 & 5

- No parent application, central review
- Criteria:
 - External Criteria: MAP R, MAP M**, CogAT (local norm)
 - School Data: Report cards, reading level
 - Student Voice: Brief non-scored response to a prompt
 - Student Services: ESOL, FARMS, Sped, 504
- Year 3: Academic criteria threshold and lottery

**Grade 5 only

In person: Grade 8

- Student application on ParentVUE
- Targeted marketing
- Criteria:
 - External Criteria: MAP R, MAP M, CogAT
 - School Data: Teacher Recommendations, Report Card
 - Student Voice: Short essay, Brief responses (non scored)
 - Student Services: ESOL, FARMS, Sped, 504
- Review committees

Key Messages

1. Enriched services are available in every MCPS school
2. Students have numerous on ramps for enrichment
3. Regional programs are comparable services to other other enriched instructional programs
4. Most students receive their enriched services in their local school
5. MCPS is meeting requirements of [COMAR](#) for GT Identification (GT Identification occurs in Grade 2)

