

Magnet School Frequently Asked Questions

What is a magnet student?

A magnet student is a student who attends a District Five school outside of his/her attendance zone.

How is a magnet student chosen?

Magnet students are chosen through an application process. Schools that have more applications than seats will use a random lottery to select students.

When can I apply?

The 2014 magnet application window runs from February 1–28, 2014.

When are applications due?

The application deadline ends on February 28.

How do I apply?

An **online** application will be available on the District Five web page, www.Anderson5.net. The online application is the easiest and most secure way to apply.

In the past years, the following schools DID NOT use the online application tool due to additional application requirements: **Concord IB, McCants IB, Lakeside STEM, TL Hanna IB, Westside Early College and the Anderson Five Charter School**. This year, all schools will use the initial application. However, these schools may require additional application requirements beyond the application. The schools will contact the families with more information at a later date.

A **paper** application will be available at the District Five office or any District Five School.

- Paper applications can be turned in to any school, the District Office, or mailed to the District Office.
- Paper applications turned in to a school must be done by 3:00 pm on February 28.
- Paper applications mailed must be postmarked by February 28
- Mail applications to Anderson Five, 400 Pearman Dairy Road, Anderson, SC 29625.

Parents that do not have access to a computer or internet may call 260-5000 for other application options.

At how many magnet schools may a student apply?

Parents may apply a child to a maximum of **two** schools.

What is the “Sibling Rule”?

Non-magnet siblings of magnet students may apply to automatically attend their brother or sister’s magnet school, pending space availability. The exceptions to this rule are the following schools: **Concord IB, McCants IB, Lakeside STEM, TL Hanna IB, and Westside Early College**.

How can I be sure my online or paper application was accepted?

An email confirming receipt of the application will be sent to parents applying online. Parents will be given a copy of their paper application at the time they return it.

How many students are chosen in each magnet school?

Available slots may be different at each magnet school depending on current enrollment.

The magnet school of my choice is in my current school zone, do I have to apply?

No. Students may attend the magnet school in the zone in which they currently live.

I do not live in the zone of the magnet school of my choice, do I have to apply?

Yes. All students residing in the geographic area served by Anderson School District Five may apply for admission. Students living outside the Anderson School District Five attendance zone may apply but will be required to pay tuition. Also, District Five students will be given priority over out of district students.

How does the lottery work?

One lottery number is assigned per family. Parents attending the lottery (see below) will be given their lottery number. Otherwise, lottery numbers are assigned in the order that applications are received.

When is the lottery?

A random lottery will be held on March 5, at the District Five Office, at 5:30pm. At the lottery parents will not learn if their child has been accepted into a magnet school. Parents will learn where their child ranks in the school's magnet selection order. This will give parents a general idea about their child's chance of being accepted.

When will parents be notified of acceptance?

Parents will be notified of acceptance into a magnet school by letter by March 14. If selected into a magnet school, the letter will also include a commitment form.

Commitment forms will be due back by April 11.

My child attends his/her zoned school but we are planning to move out of the zone by next year. Can my child continue to attend this school?

Your child may continue to attend for the remainder of the current school year. However, if you move into another school zone prior to the start of the next school year, your child can attend their current zoned school ONLY if chosen through the magnet process. It is recommended that parents apply to their zoned school if they are contemplating moving and if they wish for their child to continue at that school.

What are students taught at a magnet school?

All District Five students learn the same state and district content standards and participate in the same testing programs. Magnet schools teach the curriculum by using strategies centered around their magnet theme.

What is a "school of choice"?

"School of Choice" schools are schools without magnet themes. Our "choice" schools are Glenview Middle and North Pointe Elementary. Students may apply to these schools through the magnet process.

What academic standards apply at a magnet school?

Students learn the same state and district content standards and participate in the same testing programs as all other Anderson Five students.

What if I have a special needs child?

Special education students who are able to learn in a regular classroom setting are eligible to attend.

What is the school schedule?

Students follow the normal elementary school arrival and dismissal schedule.

Is transportation available for magnet students?

No. Transportation for magnet students is not provided by School District Five. Parents must provide for their child's transportation.

Once in a magnet school, do I have to apply each year?

No. Once a student is selected into a magnet school they are able to remain there through the last grade of the school.

Will my elementary magnet child automatically continue to the middle school that his/her magnet school feeds? No**Can s/he apply to attend the magnet school's feeder middle school? Yes**

Magnet students moving from 5th to 6th grade are required to return to their home school zone when moving up unless the student has applied and been accepted into his/her elementary magnet school's feeder middle school or another magnet middle school.

Are the high school magnet schools different than the elementary and middle school magnets?

Yes. T.L. Hanna IB and Westside Early College Academy are both schools-within-a-school. These are programs that students district-wide may apply for but both programs have academic requirements. Contact the schools directly for more information.

Could transferring to a magnet school affect my child's middle or high school sports eligibility?

Yes. Magnet school acceptance MAY affect your child's eligibility to participate in academic and/or school sports. It is the PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to check with the SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE regarding eligibility requirements. www.SCHSL.org