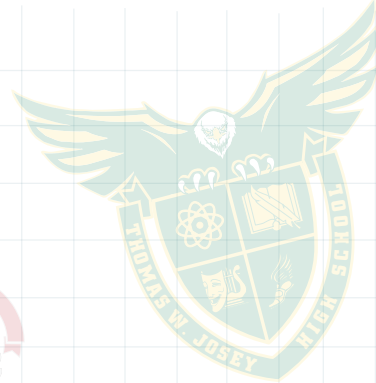
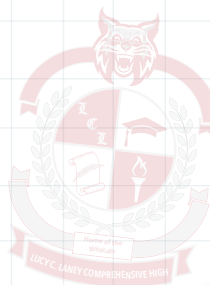


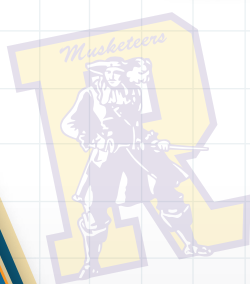


John S. Davidson
Fine-Arts Magnet School



Richmond
County School System

School Choice Guide



CROSS CREEK
COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL

2026-2027



Superintendent's Message

Dear Students and Families,

As you begin making decisions for the next school year, I want to thank you for trusting the Richmond County School System with your child's education. Choosing the right school is an important step for every family, and we are honored to walk alongside you in this process.

Our district is proud to offer outstanding opportunities for students. In addition to our nationally recognized magnet schools, students across Richmond County have access to innovative programs of choice in their neighborhood schools. From Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) pathways to STEAM initiatives that spark creativity and critical thinking, these programs open doors for every student to explore their interests and prepare for success in college, careers, and life.

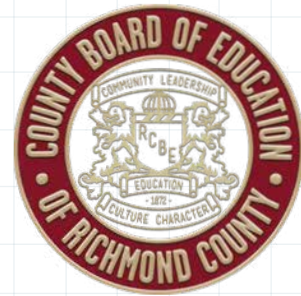
This guide highlights the diverse options available to your family and provides details on programs that may be the right fit for your child. I encourage you to explore these pages, connect with our administrators and counselors, and attend open house sessions where you can see the programs in action and hear directly from students who are thriving in them.

At Richmond County, our commitment is to ensure that every learner is empowered every day with the academic foundation, life skills, and confidence to pursue their goals. Whether your child chooses a magnet school or one of the many specialized pathways at our other schools, know that they will be supported by caring educators and leaders dedicated to their success.

Thank you for being our partners in this journey. We look forward to working with you as we prepare our students to thrive, adapt, and lead in an ever-changing world.

Sincerely,

Dr. Malinda B. Cobb
Superintendent of Schools
Richmond County School System



Richmond County Board of Education

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Venus D. Cain

District 9 (at-large)

C. Monique Braswell

District 5

Samantha M. Valentine

District 10 (at-large)

November 1, 2025:

Applications open for magnet schools and specialized programs at 8 a.m.

April 1 - May 1, 2026:

Spring Application Period





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Empowering Every
Learner Every Day

Vision:

To prepare every
student to thrive,
adapt, and lead in an
ever-changing world

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*Superintendent
of Schools*

Superintendent's Cabinet

Marcus Allen
*Deputy Superintendent
of Operations and
Administrative Services*

Dr. Tommy Welch
*Deputy Superintendent of
School Improvement and
Strategic Initiatives*

Dr. David Hall
*Assistant Superintendent
of High School
Administrative Services*

Aletha Snowberger
*Assistant Superintendent
of Middle School
Administrative Services*

Dr. Shontier Barnes
*Assistant Superintendent
of Elementary
Administrative Services I*

Glenda Collingsworth
*Assistant Superintendent
for Elementary
Administrative Services II*

Dr. Melissa Shepard
Chief Human Resources Officer

Bobby A. Smith, CPA
Chief Financial Officer



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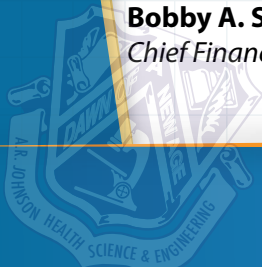
to Learn More About
School Choice or visit

rcboe.info/choice

School Choice Office Hours

M-F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Contact Us (706) 826-1136





What is School Choice?



Richmond County School System families are offered a variety of school choice options designed to meet the interests and academic needs of all our students.

Several of our schools offer specialized courses and programs open to all students in Richmond County. From International Baccalaureate Programmes to skilled trades, cybersecurity, robotics, and visual and performing arts, we have options to support your child(ren)'s diverse interests.

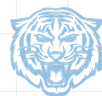
Our school system is also home to four award-winning magnet schools that offer rigorous academic programs and special focus areas:



• **John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School (6-12)**



• **A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School (6-12)**



• **Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School (RCTCM) (6-12)**



• **C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School (K-5)**

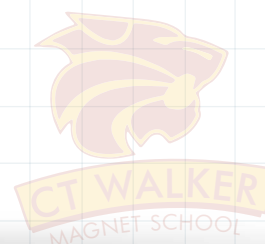


In addition to our magnet schools and specialized programs, which require a competitive application, we offer school choice options established by Georgia law to meet our families' needs. House Bill 251 (HB251) makes it possible to request a transfer to another school in Richmond County without a hardship. HB251 transfer applications are open November 1 through May 1 each year. Families residing in Richmond County may request a zone exemption from one school attendance zone to another for extreme hardships. The hardships include medical, financial, and bullying. Proof of the hardship must be presented on the application. The school must have available space to be considered for the request.

For HB251 and zone exemptions, any school that is above 90% of their enrollment capacity is not eligible for consideration for students who are out of zone. Any newly-opened school is ineligible for school choice for a period of four years.

November 1, 2025: Applications open for magnet schools and specialized programs at 8 a.m.

April 1 - May 1, 2026: Spring Application Period





Dedicated Magnet Schools:

Application Requirements for Early Conditional Acceptance

System Requirements for all Magnet Schools and Specialized Programs:

- For a competitive application, students should have a final average of 80 in each of the core subjects (math, reading, science, social studies), and conduct (grades 1-6) from the previous school year.
- Applicants are required to participate in the system-wide reading and math assessment.
- Students considered for admissions must perform on grade level or higher.
- Applicants must be residents of Richmond County to enroll in any Richmond County magnet school or specialized program.
- Kindergarten applicants must reach the age of 5 by September 1 of the year enrolling.
- K-3 applicants must maintain a "B" average or a rating of 2 (for students with standards-based report cards), in language arts and math for the current school year; applicants in grades 4-11 must maintain an 80 average in each core subject.
- Students in grades 4-6 must also maintain a "B" average in conduct.
- At the end of the current school year, magnet school candidates must present cumulative current report cards.

Students Currently Enrolled in the Richmond County School System:

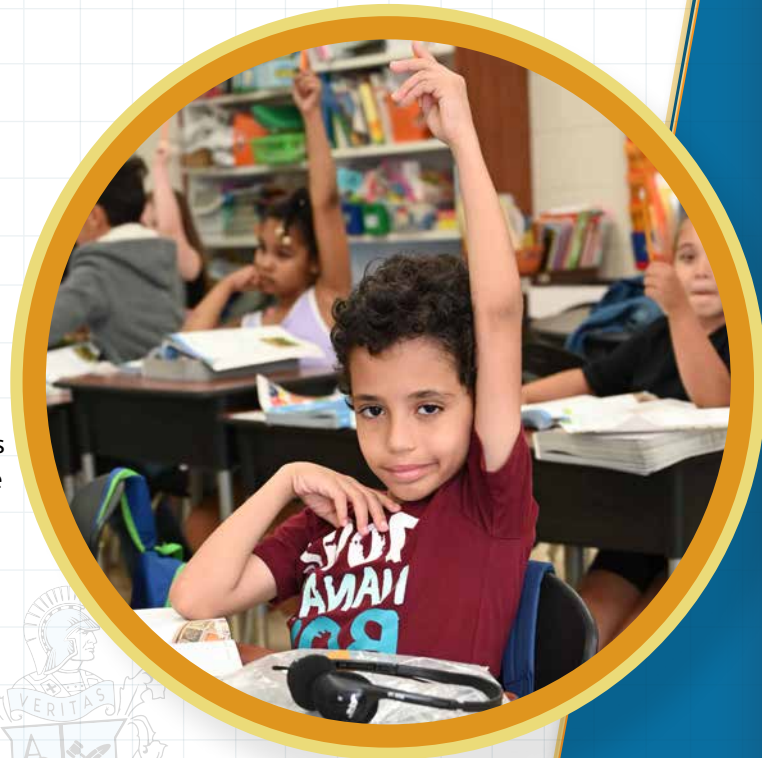
Before you begin the application, you will need your child's 9-digit student identification number. This number may be obtained from your child(ren)'s current school, the Infinite Campus Parent Portal, or your child(ren)'s report card. The number typically begins with the digits 300. This is NOT your child's social security number. Providing this number will allow us to access your child's grades and streamline the application process.

For information on how to access your Infinite Campus ParentPortal account, visit rcboe.org/parentportal.

Students NOT Currently Enrolled in the Richmond County School System:

- Before you begin the application, you will need a copy of your child(ren)'s report card for the last school year (unless you are applying to kindergarten).
- Students applying to 10th, 11th, or 12th grade will also be required to submit a current high school transcript.
- During the online application process, you will be prompted to upload supporting documents. If you are unable to upload required documents, **please mail them to the address below**. All items must be postmarked **by January 6**:

Richmond County School System
Attn: Magnet/Choice Application
864 Broad Street • Augusta, GA 30901
rcboe.org/choice





Transportation

The following magnet schools and specialized programs offer transportation to and from school using a shuttle bus system:



• **Academy of Richmond County**



• **A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School**



• **C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School**



• **John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School**



• **Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School**



• **Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School**



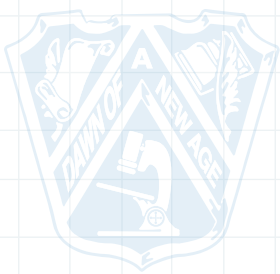
2026 Magnet School and Specialized Program Testing Schedule

All students applying to magnet schools and specialized programs must participate in a reading and math readiness assessment.

During the application process parents can select a preferred testing date and location. Students will take the test according to the grade for which they are applying.

For example: Students applying to kindergarten will test with kindergarten at Warren Road or C.T. Walker Magnet School.

Grade Level	January 28, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.	January 31, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.	January 31, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.	Spring Testing May 16, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.
Kindergarten	Warren Road Elementary	C.T. Walker	C.T. Walker	C.T. Walker
1st-5th grade	Copeland Elementary	A. Dorothy Hains Elementary	Lake Forest Hills Elementary Hephzibah Elementary	A. Dorothy Hains Elementary Garrett Elementary
6th-12th grade	Academy of Richmond County Davidson Fine Arts Laney High	Hephzibah High Tutt Middle	A.R. Johnson RCTCM	A.R. Johnson Hephzibah Middle Westside High



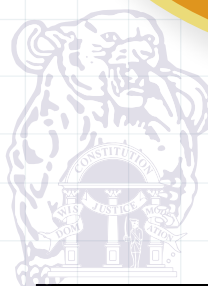
A.R. Johnson Health Science & Engineering Magnet School

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ **Therapeutic Services: Patient Care**
- ✓ **Cloud Computing**
- ✓ **Computer Science**
- ✓ **Programming Pathway**
- ✓ **Engineering & Technology**

A.R. Johnson is a public magnet school serving students in grades 6-12 with a comprehensive **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) academic focus integrated into all content areas. Students are equipped to explore their interests and enhance their skills across multiple disciplines. Students specialize in engineering or health sciences while gaining hands-on experience that not only deepens their understanding but also provides practical application of classroom knowledge. Students earn hours toward certification in select programs of study, preparing them for future careers in cutting-edge professions.

For more information, visit rcboe.org/choice.



An **A.R. Johnson** student was selected out of more than 1,200 applications to be a member of State Superintendent Richard Woods' Student Advisory Council.



Scan to Explore
A.R. Johnson!



WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students with a strong interest in STEAM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics.)

Those who prefer hands-on learning and practical application of knowledge.

Students who want to explore careers in healthcare and engineering.



C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ Civics and citizenship
- ✓ Manners and etiquette
- ✓ Classroom rituals and procedures



C.T. Walker has been named a Georgia School of Excellence, a National Magnet School of Distinction by the Magnet Schools of America, a Title I Distinguished School, and a Blue Ribbon School. The traditional program is committed to developing young citizens possessing leadership skills that are nurtured within and are demonstrated openly in service and responsibility to self, family, community, and country. **C.T. Walker** strives to instill the qualities of respect, patriotism, responsibility, and communication.

For more information, visit rcboe.org/choice.



WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students who learn best in structured, routine environments.

Those who value good citizenship in a democratic society.

Those who respond successfully to high expectations for personal conduct and academics.

C.T. Walker was named a 2025 Title I Distinguished School for ranking among the top 5% of schools statewide.



Scan to Explore
C.T. Walker!



John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ Music
- ✓ Dance
- ✓ Drama
- ✓ Art
- ✓ Creative writing



John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School was founded in 1981 as a pillar of excellence in academics and fine arts. In addition to rigorous academic preparation, students develop and explore the art forms of drama, dance, visual art, music and creative writing. Students specialize in areas of the arts as they advance each year.



This provides an enriching environment for the study of the arts, establishing Davidson as one the highest ranking schools in the state of Georgia and the nation. **Davidson** holds 11 national awards form the Magnet Schools of America and was most recently named a 2025 Title I School of Distinction.

For more information, visit

rcboe.org/choice.

Davidson's 2025 SAT score was 1,169, placing it among the top 5% performing schools in Georgia.



WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Self-disciplined students who are motivated to acheive.

Students who can specialize and advance in a specific area of study.

Those who can balance artistic expression with rigorous academic preparation.



Scan to Explore
Davidson!



John S. Davidson
Fine Arts Magnet School



Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School (RCTCM)

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ Cybersecurity
- ✓ Culinary Arts
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Energy (Engineering)
- ✓ Robotics
- ✓ Audio/visual technology and film
- ✓ Web design
- ✓ Game design
- ✓ Entrepreneurship



RCTCM is a public magnet school serving students in grades 6–12. Students are admitted on selective criteria based upon prior school record, academic testing, and interest in computer science and technology fields.

RCTCM is a next-door neighbor to Augusta Technical College, where 40% of juniors and seniors participate in Dual Enrollment.

For more information, visit
rcboe.org/choice.



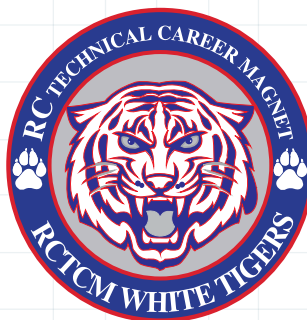
WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Ambitious students aiming to advance their academic careers by gaining real-world skills.

Students with a keen interest in technology, problem-solving, and digital systems.

Students who thrive in a technology-driven environment.

RCTCM was ranked in the top 60 high schools in Georgia by *U.S. News and World Report* in 2025.



Scan to Explore
RCTCM!



Special Programs & Coursework

Academy for Advanced Placement Studies

Advanced Placement (AP) Studies are designed to expose our high school students to rigorous and accelerated curriculum. Successful candidates are challenged with opportunities in abstract thinking, problem-solving, and the use of higher-order thinking skills. Students who take **AP** classes are highly engaged and are working at least one grade level ahead of other students in their age group.

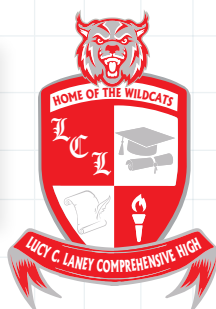
While all **RCSS** high schools offer **AP** courses, some schools are designated AP Academy schools. The Academy employs a schoolwide enrichment model and uses project-based, hands-on instructional techniques. The curriculum in these classes also helps prepare students who are interested in going to college after graduation. Completion of **AP** courses are exceptional additions to college applications, and upon completion of the program, students can receive an **AP** diploma.

For more information, visit rcboe.org/choice.



AP SCHOOLS

- [Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School](#)
- [Westside Comprehensive High School](#)



WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Highly engaged, abstract thinkers.

Self-motivated students with a desire to excel

Intellectually curious and critical thinkers.

Students willing to commit to college-level work.



Scan QR Code to Learn More.

More than 70 students across **RCSS** high schools received **AP** recognition awards from the College Board for their performance on **AP** exams in 2025.





Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics

STEM & STEAM SCHOOLS

- [Goshen Elementary School](#)
- [A. Dorothy Hains Elementary School](#)
- [A.R. Johnson Health Science & Engineering Magnet School](#)

STE(A)M

STE(A)M fuses arts and creativity with **STEM** to engage the whole child and foster high achievement in all areas by blending the arts, and sciences. Both **STEM** and **STEAM** employ the artistic process and scientific method of relying on exploration of ideas and possibilities. Both require high student engagement in exploring creative and critical thinking. **STEAM** compliments 21st century skills, particularly the “4 C’s:” creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.

In addition to **STEAM** courses offered in schools, our school system also offers opportunities for all students to engage in **STEAM** activities year-round through our “**Full STEAM Ahead**” initiative.

For more information, visit rcboe.org/steam.



WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Intellectually curious
and critical thinkers.

Students who thrive in
environments that
encourage exploration.

Students who respond to
problem solving with fluency,
flexibility, and originality.



Scan QR Code
to Learn More.



Visual and Performing Arts

Visual and performing arts programs develop a student's talents and passion for the arts.

Students receive specialized instruction in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. As part of a strong academic program, the arts are approached through education, integration, and exposure.

At the elementary level, students receive weekly classes in each of the four arts disciplines, as well as arts-integrated instruction in grade-based classrooms.

Students continuing to middle and high school programs will receive more rigorous, intensive instruction in the **visual and performing arts** specific to their area of interest.



VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOLS

- [Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School](#)
- [Garrett Elementary School](#)
- [Hephzibah Elementary School](#)
- [Warren Road Elementary School](#)



John S. Davidson
Fine Arts Magnet School



SPECIAL FEATURES

- Students receive instruction in dance, music, theatre arts, and visual arts
- Performance opportunities inside and outside the classroom



Scan QR Code
to Learn More.

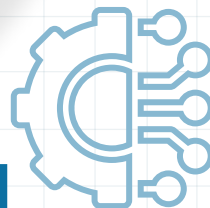
WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students committed to developing personal artistic abilities.

Those who desire to participate in artistic exhibitions and performances.

Students who work well independently and in groups.

Those willing to receive constructive feedback for continued growth in the arts.



Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE)

Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) provides students with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in a variety of career pathways. Through hands-on learning, industry certifications, and partnerships with local businesses, **CTAE** prepares students for success in both higher education and the workforce. Many schools offer **CTAE** oriented course work and some schools and programs in our school system specialize in these fields.

For more information visit
rcboe.org/ctae.

CTAE

Programs of Study and Curriculum Maps

Contact your school to see what programs and classes are available.

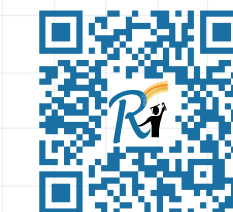
WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students with a passion and intense drive to succeed with perseverance and determination.

Those with a strong sense of self.

Students who are adaptable to changing circumstances.

Those with enterprising skills and desire to be their own boss.



Scan to
Explore CTAE!

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- ✓ Audio/Video Technology and Film
- ✓ Automotive
- ✓ Business Management & Administration
- ✓ Computer Networking & Information Technology
- ✓ Cybersecurity
- ✓ Culinary Arts
- ✓ Education & Training
- ✓ Energy
- ✓ Electronics
- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Health Sciences
- ✓ Hospitality & Tourism
- ✓ Law & Public Safety
- ✓ Manufacturing
- ✓ Marketing



Cyber Academy of Excellence

The **Cyber Academy of Excellence** is open to students from both our traditional and magnet high schools who wish to pursue cybersecurity training while seeking industry certification.

The students are provided transportation to the **Cyber Academy of Excellence** at the **Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School**.

Cyber Academy of Excellence students have the opportunity to prepare for the CompTIA Security+ Certification while earning college credits and following the guidelines of the dual enrollment students.

The program delivers a technically-focused, security-related curriculum explicitly designed to address the fast-growing careers in cybersecurity and computer science. The interdisciplinary nature of the program allows potential students to develop deep technological skills and an understanding of the business, managerial, and administrative elements of networking and coding principles.

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students who enjoy working with computers and digital platforms.

High school students who are passionate about cybersecurity and computer science.



Scan to Explore the Cyber Academy of Excellence!

HOW TO APPLY:

See school guidance counselor or administrator for referral.



Marion E. Barnes Career Center

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students who gain real-life career skills while still in high school.

Students who want to pursue a trade career.

HOW TO APPLY:

See school counselor or administrator for referral.

Marion Barnes welding teacher Andrie McFadden was a top 6 finalist for the 2026 RCSS Teacher of the Year.

The skilled trades center is a unique opportunity that provides hands-on experience for students of the **Richmond County School System**. Students are introduced to career fields related to manufacturing and skilled labor professions.

Students are afforded the opportunity to experience work-based learning, internships, and participate in volunteer efforts with Habitat for Humanity.

Success in any of these programs can lead to specified certifications, apprenticeship opportunities, post-secondary education, and possible employment immediately after graduation. Students wishing to participate are transported to the skilled trades center for specified courses.



Scan to Explore Marion Barnes!

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ Barbering
- ✓ Carpentry
- ✓ Cosmetology
- ✓ Fine Furniture
- ✓ HVACR Electrical
- ✓ Low Voltage Electrical
- ✓ Masonry
- ✓ Nail Technology
- ✓ Plumbing
- ✓ Welding



International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme is a rigorous program of study geared towards elementary, middle and high school students. The program focuses on critical thinking and international mindedness. Designed to reinforce a positive attitude, the **IB** Programme teaches students to ask challenging questions, reflect critically, develop research skills, and learn how to learn. The continuum of education spans from kindergarten to 12th grade. **IB** schools maintain high standards by actively training and supporting teachers in the **IB** curriculum. **IB** schools are evaluated and authorized by the **International Baccalaureate** Organization in order to receive **IB** World School designation.

PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME (PYP)

For K-5th grade students, the **PYP** nurtures and develops learners who are caring and active participants in a lifelong journey of learning. The **PYP** is an example of best educational practices globally, responding to the challenges and opportunities facing students in our rapidly changing world. By learning through inquiry and reflecting on their own learning, **PYP** students develop the knowledge, conceptual understandings, skills, and attributes of the **IB** Learner Profile to make a difference in their own lives, their communities, and beyond.

OUR IB SCHOOLS

- [Lake Forest Hills Elementary School](#)
- [Hephzibah Comprehensive High School](#)
- [John M. Tutt Middle School](#)
- [Hephzibah Middle School](#)
- [Copeland Elementary School](#)
- [Hephzibah Elementary School](#)
- [Academy of Richmond County \(ARC\)](#)





WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students with reading, writing, and mathematical skills at or above grade level.

Students with effective time management skills and basic computer skills.

Self-directed learners who are motivated and independent.

Caring, balanced, and open-minded students.

Students who are willing to take risks while maintaining principles.

MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP)

For grades 6-10, **MYP** emphasizes the learning profile and focuses on an intensive study of core subjects, while integrating concept based learning through global contexts and key concepts. Students study a variety of disciplines and how they relate. **MYP** students complete community activities and service hours; a personal project is the culminating assessment for the program.

DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (DP)

For 11-12th grade students, **DP** is a two-year curriculum and among the most academically rigorous programs offered at the **Academy of Richmond County (ARC)**. The program emphasizes intellectual and international understanding, responsible citizenship, and community service. Students are encouraged to sit for international exams with the opportunity to earn the **IB** Diploma and are also required to complete Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) hours, the Theory of Knowledge Course, and an Extended Essay.

CAREER-RELATED PROGRAMME (CRP)

The IB Career-Related Programme is rigorous 11th and 12th grade curriculum available at **ARC** that prepares students to enter college or the workforce. Students choose a career pathway, such as engineering or cybersecurity. In addition, **CRP** students take a selection of rigorous **IB** courses and engage in service learning, language acquisition, and reflection and investigation into ethical issues in their fields of study. Students who successfully complete the **CRP** requirements earn the **IB** Career-Related Certificate and may also earn college credit.

Think It's A Fit For You?

Visit rcboe.org/choice to learn more.

Hear more about
our IB Programme at
Hephzibah Elementary!





Reaching Potential Through Manufacturing

Reaching Potential through Manufacturing (RPM) is an exciting partnership between Textron Specialized Vehicles Inc. and the Richmond County School System, now nearing a decade of collaboration. This innovative program gives students a unique opportunity to catch up on their high school credits while earning an income and gaining hands-on work experience in a real manufacturing environment.

With over 100 students enrolled, **RPM** combines classroom learning with a four-hour shift at a facility producing parts for top brands like E-Z Go®, Cushman®, Textron Off Road®, TUG™, and Douglas™ brands. Beyond the manufacturing floor, students also receive comprehensive support services, including therapeutic counseling, resumé building, interview preparation, and money management, all designed to equip them with the skills needed for long-term success as they work toward their high school diplomas.



HOW TO APPLY:

See school counselor
or administrator
for referral.

An **RPM** student won Textron Specialized Vehicle's Duck Award for stellar employees who exemplify adaptability, teamwork, and resilience for the first time in 2025.

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Those who are interested in
manufacturing careers.

Students who can balance
academics while working a
real-life manufacturing job.

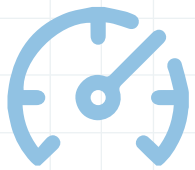


Think It's A Fit For You?

Contact your school's guidance
counselor to learn more and apply.

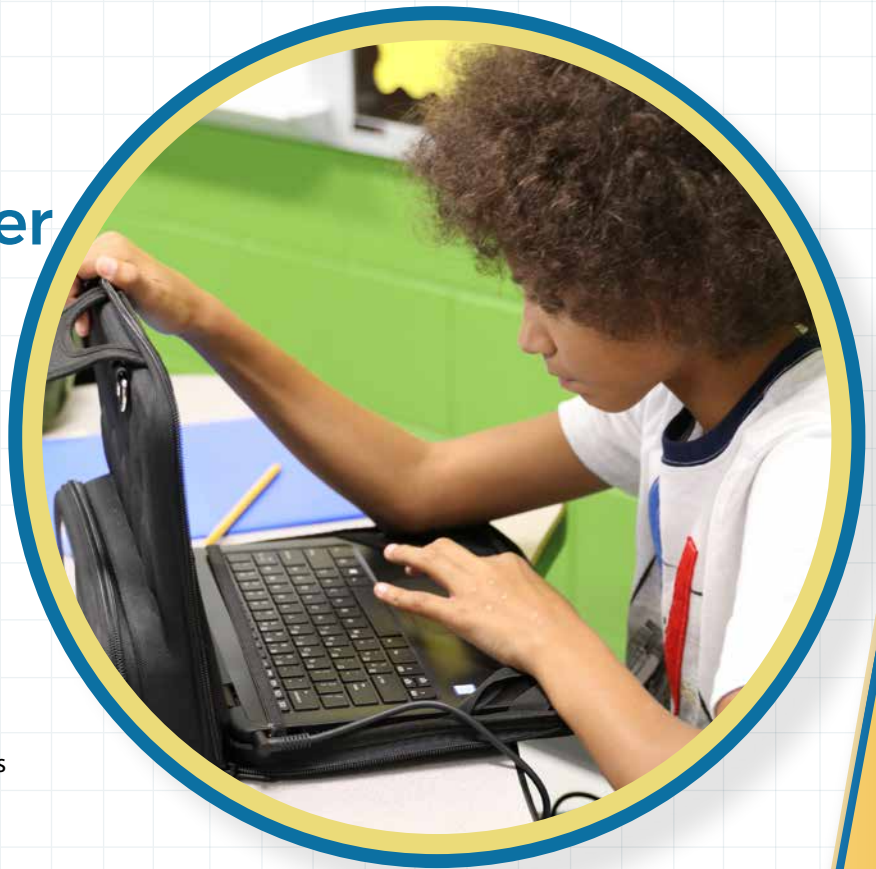
Scan here to explore RPM!





Performance Learning Center

The **Performance Learning Center (PLC)** and **PLC @ Home** are non-traditional programs in our school system that offer in-person and at-home virtual learning options for students. The school promotes high academic standards through the implementation of the curriculum set forth by the Georgia Department of Education and the expectations of the **Richmond County School System**. **PLC** provides a place where all students are challenged and expected to be responsible for their education; in this setting, teachers serve as learning facilitators.



The **Performance Learning Center** offers a strong curriculum with more than 100 possible course selections in math, science, language arts, social studies, visual art, physical education, and the Entrepreneurship Pathway in **CTAE**.

While attending **PLC**, students will master the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for success in technical school, college, the military, or the workforce.

HOW TO APPLY:

See school counselor
or administrator
for referral.

WHO IS BEST SUITED?

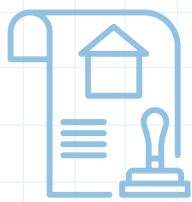
Independent,
motivated students.

Students with
strong computer skills.

Students who wish to
complete their coursework
online rather than through
a traditional approach.



**PERFORMANCE
Learning Center**



House Bill 251 Application Period NOVEMBER 1 - MAY 1

Under a 2009 state law (OCGA 20-2-2131), parents may request a transfer to another public school within their local school district to specified schools and grades designated as having available space. Each year, the school system identifies schools with available space and accepts applications from families requesting a transfer under this law. **Applications are accepted November 1 – May 1 each year.** Remaining seats will be available for applications **July 1 - August 16.** The list of schools with space available and the application can be found at rcboe.org/choice. In the Richmond County School System, any school with an enrollment below 90% capacity is considered a participating school.

If a parent chooses to transfer a child to another school, Georgia law requires the parent assume all costs and responsibilities related to the transportation of the child to and from school, as long as the child remains at the school. If a parent does not enroll their child/children in the school they are approved to attend by the first week of school, the **House Bill 251** becomes obsolete.

In addition, any change of school placement which is not the result of a bona fide change of residency may impact a student's eligibility to participate in Georgia High School Association sanctioned varsity activities and events for one calendar year. The parent or legal guardian is responsible for investigating and determining such impact on eligibility. Therefore, parents and guardians must make individual decisions about the consequences of accepting permissive transfers.

Visit rcboe.info/housebill251 to learn more.



Scan here to
hear more about
House Bill 251

House Bill 224 For Military

Effective July 1, 2017, Georgia **House Bill 224** allows military families to attend any public school located within the school system where the military base or off-base military housing in which the student resides is located, provided space is available for additional enrollment.

Each year, the school system identifies schools with available space and accepts applications for military families to attend these schools. The list of schools with available space and the application can be found on the school system website rcboe.org/choice.

Upon arrival, military families should enroll in their zoned school and complete the application to request a **HB224** transfer.

1. Enroll your child(ren) in their Richmond County zoned school.
2. Visit our website rcboe.org/choice and complete the online application to request a HB 224 transfer. The application to request a transfer must be completed within 30 days of enrollment.
3. In the event the number of transfer requests exceeds the available capacity in a particular school, requests will be approved based on the order in which they are received.
4. Parents and guardians will be notified of approval or denial by the email address provided on the application.
5. Once a request is approved, the parent/guardian assumes all costs and responsibilities related to transportation of their child to and from school so long as the child remains at the assigned school.





Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply for School Choice AND Magnet Schools?

Yes. Parents can apply to both and then select the desired school if accepted to both. Decisions for the **2026-2027** enrollment must be made in the spring.

Can I apply if I don't live in Richmond County, Georgia?

Yes, one may apply, but a student must be a resident of Richmond County at the time of registration in order to enroll. Students who are unable to provide proof of residency will forfeit their acceptance.

Can I make a correction to my application once it has been submitted?

Changes can be made to the application between **November 1, 2025** through **January 9, 2026**. Parents can access the application using the account created during the application process.

Why do I have to provide my child's zoned school?

Once accepted into a magnet program, this information is used to alert the zoned school that the student will not be attending next year. This information helps us accurately staff our schools. A student's zoned school is not shared with the admissions team.

If my child is currently enrolled in a Richmond County School System school, can I find their student identification number in Parent Portal?

Yes. If you have an active account in Parent Portal, your child's student identification number appears in the top left information box under the name of the school. The number typically begins with the digits 300.

Do I need to submit teacher recommendations?

Teacher recommendation letters are no longer a part of the application process.

Can I submit a paper application instead of applying online?

All applications must be completed online. Assistance will be available every **Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm** during the months of **November and December** by calling **(706) 826-1136** or emailing **haddebr@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us**.

Where/when will my child take the academic test?

During the application process, you will select a preferred testing date, time, and location. Your child will take the test at the location and will be considered for the program you selected, regardless of test location.

Can my child attend a magnet school and participate in sports and/or extracurricular activities at their zoned school?

Students who are enrolled in a magnet school may not participate in sports and/or extracurricular activities at their zoned school or any other school. Richmond County Board of Education policy states that to be eligible for participation in athletics, an individual must be enrolled full-time in the school that sponsors the competitive activity. Students may participate in sports and/or extra-curricular activities that are offered at the school they are attending.

How can I prepare my child for the magnet grades 1-12 testing?

Students applying for grades 1-12 will take a computerized Reading and Math assessment that will generate a Lexile and Quantile score. Students considered for admissions must perform on-grade level or higher. For more information about both measures, please visit **lexile.com** or **quantiles.com**. To best prepare your students, review the Georgia reading and math educational standards for your child's grade level. Students should arrive 30 minutes prior to testing for check-in. Students applying to grades 1-12 should bring their own pencils and headphones for testing. Students will be allowed to use the restroom and stretch between the two tests.

What will my child need to bring to the academic test?

Students applying to grades 1-12 should bring a pencil. Students applying to kindergarten do not need to bring any materials.

Do I need to remain at the school while my student takes the test?

Parents will need to remain on campus in the waiting area. Since each student works at his or her own pace, testing times may vary between 45 minutes and 3 hours.

Can my child be tested for kindergarten even if she is not yet old enough?

According to Georgia state law, students enrolling in kindergarten must reach the age of 5 by **September 1**.

If my child is gifted, do they still need to participate in the testing?

Yes, all applicants must participate in testing.

Why do I have to indicate my child's gifted status?

This information is shared with the receiving school after the student has been accepted to ensure that gifted services are in place once the student arrives in the fall. This information is a voluntary portion of the application. Parents who do not wish to reveal this information on the application are not required. This information is not shared with the admissions team.

Can I change my mind about transportation?

Yes. If you change your mind, please let the school know during your March pre-registration meeting.

If my child is accepted, can they start now?

This application process is for the 2026-2027 school year.

Scan here to learn
more about applying
for School Choice.





Career and Ready Graduates



A.R. Johnson Health Science
& Engineering Magnet School

CAREER CLUSTER	PATHWAY
■ Health Science	► Therapeutic Services: Patient Care
■ Information Technology	► Cloud Computing
■ Information Technology	► Computer Science
■ Information Technology	► Programming
■ STEM	► Engineering & Technology



Academy of Richmond County
High School

■ Education & Training	► Teaching as a Profession
■ Government & Public Administration	► Army JROTC
■ Hospitality & Tourism	► Culinary Arts
■ Human Services	► Cosmetology
■ Information Technology	► Cybersecurity
■ STEM	► Engineering & Technology



Cross Creek
Comprehensive High School

■ Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources	► Plant Floriculture and Plant Landscape Systems
■ Education & Training	► Teaching as a Profession
■ Government & Public Administration	► Naval JROTC (Air Force)
■ Marketing	► Fashion Merchandising, & Retail
■ Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics	► Unmanned Aircraft Systems & Flight Operations

Cyber Academy
Of Excellence



■ Information Technology	► CyberSecurity
■ Information Technology	► Game Design
■ Information Technology	► Programming Pathway



George P. Butler
Comprehensive High School

■ Arts, AV Technology, & Communication	► Audio-Video Technology and Film
■ Government & Public Administration	► Marine Corps JROTC
■ Hospitality & Tourism	► Culinary Arts
■ Human Services	► Cosmetology
■ Information Technology	► Web & Digital Design



Glenn Hills
Comprehensive High School

■ Education & Training	► Teaching as a Profession
■ Government & Public Administration	► Naval JROTC
■ Human Services	► Cosmetology with Entrepreneurship
■ Marketing	► Marketing and Management
■ Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics	► Unmanned Aircraft Systems & Flight Operations



Hephzibah
Comprehensive High School

■ Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources	► Plant and Landscape Systems
■ Architecture & Construction	► Sheet Metal
■ Architecture & Construction	► Welding
■ Government & Public Administration	► Army JROTC
■ Human Services	► Cosmetology
■ Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics	► General Automotive Technology



John S. Davidson
Fine Arts Magnet School

■ Arts, AV Technology & Communication	► Audio-Video Technology and Film
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Lucy C. Laney
Comprehensive High School

■ Government & Public Administration	► Army JROTC
■ Human Services	► Cosmetology
■ Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security	► Law Enforcement Services: Criminal Investigation
■ Marketing	► Marketing and Management Pathway
■ Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics	► General Automotive Technology



Marion E. Barnes
Career Center



Reaching
Potential Through
Manufacturing (RPM)



Richmond County
Technical Career Magnet School



T.W. Josey Comprehensive High School



Westside
Comprehensive High School

CAREER CLUSTER	PATHWAY
■ Architecture & Construction	▶ Carpentry
■ Architecture & Construction	▶ Electrical
■ Architecture & Construction	▶ HVAC Electrical
■ Architecture & Construction	▶ HVACR
■ Architecture & Construction	▶ Masonry
■ Architecture & Construction	▶ Plumbing
■ Architecture & Construction	▶ Welding
■ Human Services	▶ Cosmetology-Barbering-Nails
■ Manufacturing	▶ Manufacturing
■ Arts, AV Technology, & Communication	▶ Audio Visual Technology & Film
■ Energy	▶ Energy & Power: Generation Transmission & Distribution
■ Energy	▶ Energy Systems
■ Hospitality & Tourism	▶ Culinary Arts
■ Information Technology	▶ Networking
■ Information Technology	▶ Web & Digital Design
■ STEM	▶ Electronics
■ Government & Public Administration	▶ Air Force JROTC
■ Marketing	▶ Marketing and Management Pathway
■ Workforce Ready	▶ Workforce Ready
■ Education & Training	▶ Teaching as a Profession
■ Government & Public Administration	▶ Navy JROTC
■ Health Science	▶ Diagnostics: Phlebotomy
■ Hospitality & Tourism	▶ Hospitality, Recreation & Tourism
■ Human Services	▶ Nutrition & Food Science
■ Marketing	▶ Fashion, Merchandising & Retail
■ STEM	▶ Engineering & Technology



**Join a Community
of Excellence!**

Why Work for Richmond County School System?

Competitive Benefits:

- Comprehensive health insurance plans
- Retirement plans with employer contributions
- Paid time off and sick leave

Professional Development:

- Continuous learning opportunities
- Access to workshops, seminars, and advanced training
- Support for new teachers with mentorship programs

Innovative Learning Environment:

- Integration of cutting-edge technology in classrooms
- STEM programs and resources
- Collaborative and supportive teaching community

Student Success Focus:

- Commitment to preparing students for college and careers
- Opportunities to make a meaningful impact on students' lives

Work-Life Balance:

- Flexible scheduling options
- Supportive administration and staff
- Family-friendly work policies

Join Us Today!

- Be part of a district that values growth, innovation, and student achievement.
- Apply now and make a difference in the lives of our students!



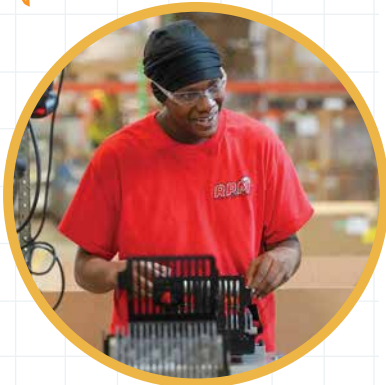
Scan or visit rcboe.org/careers



Richmond County Board of Education
864 Broad Street
Augusta, GA 30901
(706) 826-1000

Non-Profit Org
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2026-2027 School Choice Guide



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rcboe.org/choice

Application Dates

MAGNET SCHOOLS AND SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS FALL/WINTER APPLICATION PERIOD

November 1, 2025: Applications open for magnet schools and specialized programs at 8 a.m.

November and December 2025: Schools host open house events for interested families

January 9, 2026: Deadline to apply during Fall and Winter Application Period

January 28 and 31, 2026: Academic testing sessions held

February 13, 2026: Davidson Fine Arts auditions held

March 6, 2026: Decision letters e-mailed at 5 p.m.

SPRING APPLICATION TIMELINE FOR MAGNET AND SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

April 1 - May 1, 2026: Spring Application Period

May 16, 2026: Spring Academic testing sessions held

May 26, 2026: Davidson Fine Arts auditions

June 5, 2026: Decision letters e-mailed

HOUSE BILL 251 APPLICATION PERIOD

November 1, 2025 - May 1, 2026: Decision letters e-mailed on or before May 15, 2026

NOTE: Only programs with available space will be listed as options during the spring application window. Military families with PCS Orders that arrive in Augusta between May 1, 2026 through July 15, 2026 should contact the Central Office at (706) 826-1136.

rcboe.org/choice

PERFORMANCE
Learning Center



Start Your
Application
Today!

