

A GUIDE TO

CHOICE PROGRAMS

IN THE SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



ADMISSIONS INFORMATION
FOR SCHOOL YEAR
2024-2025



Transportation: SCCPSS is not able to provide transportation to Choice Program students at this time.



Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System is proud of the many Choice Programs our district offers. As you prepare for the educational journey with your child, please use this guide as a tool to discover the wide range of curriculum choices that will engage your child and prepare him or her for life. This guide will share admission criteria and walk you and your child through the steps to apply for a Choice Program or Choice School. Our award-winning programs inspire students beyond the classroom by connecting them with professionals in specific fields of study. From Advanced Academics to Engineering or the Arts, our students learn first-hand from experts in their field who share their prior experiences and vast knowledge. We offer schools with programs that meet the needs of those students seeking an academically challenging, high skilled and college-level curriculum. Students in the high school programs can earn industry credentials and a high school diploma during their four years of high school.

As students look ahead to the future needs of our workforce they'll find a variety of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs. Program instruction, internships and externships prepare our students to lead the way in science and math achievement. As a part of the Choice Programs, your child will be immersed in the field of STEM, the Arts, and Career Technical fields. These programs provide the opportunity to earn industry certifications and prepare students for the workplace.

Because of the rigor of our Choice Programs, many graduates have gone on to prestigious universities such as Harvard, Duke, and MIT. Students who have completed our specialized programs for performing arts and culinary have been admitted to institutions such as Carnegie Mellon University, New York University, and Johnson & Wales University.

Our schools work to build an academic foundation that allows every child to become successful. Our Choice Programs build upon this foundation through their unique curriculum and experiences, and this helps foster leadership skills that will connect our students to the workforce of tomorrow.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Choice guide and to learn about how the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System is working to prepare students for life. If you have questions, please visit our website at choice.sccpss.com. Our school district appreciates your interest in our Choice Programs and we look forward to assisting you and your family.

Sincerely,

Angie A. Lewis, Ed.D.
Executive Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page
Important Timeline	3
Overview: How to Apply for Choice Programs	4
Step 1: Review Eligibility Criteria	5
Audition Process for Visual & Performing Arts Schools	7
Step 2: Submitting the Application	8
Choice Program Selection Information	9
Step 3: Lottery Process	10
Priority Preferences	11
Step 4: The Registration Process	12
Appeal Process	13
After the Lottery Application Process	13
Transportation	14
Pre-Kindergarten vs. Kindergarten	14
Guidelines for Twins, Triplets, etc.	14
Students with Disabilities & Accommodations for Auditions	15
Home School Education and Virtual School	15
Reciprocity	15
Frequently Asked Questions	16
Choice Program Descriptions	17
Choice Program Contact Information	25
Sample Appeal Process Directions & Form	26

IMPORTANT TIMELINE

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) offers an online application, lottery, and registration process for those families interested in enrolling their child in a Choice Program. The online application and registration system is a secure website that provides a convenient and quick way for parents to enter information. The chart below provides important dates for this process.



Events	Timeline
Application Window Opens	January 27, 2024
Application Window Closes	February 9, 2024
Appeal Process Begins	March 1, 2024
Appeal Process Ends	March 7, 2024
Savannah Arts Academy Auditions	February 24, 2024
Garrison School for the Arts Auditions	February 24, 2024
Notification of Lottery Eligibility	February 28, 2024
Lottery	March 11, 2024
Data Quality and Validation Period	March 12 – 13, 2024
Parents Notified of Choice Results after 4:00pm	March 14, 2024
Choice Program Registration Opens	March 14, 2024
Registration Closes	March 27, 2024
Waitlist Notifications Begin	April 8, 2024

The dates listed above are subject to change. In the event a date change is required, the information will be updated on the school district’s website. Please refer to choice.sccps.com for the most up to date information.

HOW TO APPLY FOR CHOICE PROGRAMS – SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

Parents interested in applying can follow the steps below.

STEP 1

Review Eligibility Criteria

Determine if the student meets the eligibility criteria by reviewing the details on pages 5-10.

STEP 2

Submit an Online Application

Applications will be accessible on our website at choice.sccpss.com starting **January 27, 2024**.

Completing the online application is the only step necessary for current SCCPSS students.

All applicants who are not currently enrolled in a SCCPSS school (or who have not been enrolled in SCCPSS continuously for the previous 3 semesters) should apply online and must upload digital copies of the required documentation during the submission process. The required documentation must be uploaded with the online application and includes:

- Report Cards (previous three full semesters, equivalent to a full year and a half)
- Proof of Address (Utility Bill (electric, gas, water), Government Agency Mail, or Lease Agreement/Mortgage Statement)
- Required Test Scores: A nationally normed standardized test score in Reading, and a nationally normed standardized test score in Mathematics
- An attendance report covering the time period from January 2023 – December 2023
- A discipline report covering the time period from January 2023 – December 2023

STEP 3

Lottery Process and awaiting results.

A randomized electronic lottery will run in early March. Lottery result notifications will be sent to parents by email following the lottery.

STEP 4

Registration

Registration is required after a student is selected through the lottery process. Registration is completed online, and registration instructions are sent through email after the lottery.

STEP ONE: REVIEW ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

CHOICE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA QUICK OVERVIEW

ALL students applying to a Choice Program in the Savannah-Chatham County School System (*with the exception of A. B. Williams Elementary School, Hubert Middle School, and Savannah High School) must meet the eligibility criteria. Students not meeting criteria will be considered ineligible and will not be placed in the lottery.

***Choice Program eligibility criteria is not required for A. B. Williams Elementary School, Hubert Middle School, the STEAM Career Academy at Savannah High School. Students who apply for these programs will be placed in the lottery.**

- Report Cards (previous three full semesters, equivalent to a full year and a half)
- Proof of Address (Utility Bill (electric, gas, water), Government Agency Mail, or Lease Agreement/Mortgage Statement)
- Required Test Scores: A nationally normed standardized test score in Reading, and a nationally normed standardized test score in Mathematics
- An attendance report covering the time period from January 2023 – December 2023
- A discipline report covering the time period from January 2023 – December 2023

Choice Grade Point Average will be used to determine eligibility. Choice GPA is defined as the end of quarter grades for the past three full semesters of core academic and foreign language courses (ELA/Reading/Math/Science/SS/Foreign Language).

All students who are not enrolled in SCCPSS must provide Proof of Address during the application process. **Proof of Address** consists of a Lease, Mortgage Statement, Electric/Gas/Water Bill, or Government issued mail.

Requirements - Kindergarten, First and Second Grades

Students applying to a kindergarten, first grade and second grade Choice Program must meet the following general criteria for eligibility:

- Satisfactory Conduct & Satisfactory Academic Performance at current educational facility (if applicable)
- Proof of Address for Non-SCCPSS students
- Grades are not reviewed for Kindergarten, First and Second Grades

Requirements - Grades 3rd – 12th

	Not Accepted	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points	Weight (%)
Assessment-ELA	2 or more Grade Levels Below		1 Grade Level Below	Early-On Grade Level	Mid-Above Grade Level	20%
Assessment-Math	2 or more Grade Levels Below		1 Grade Level Below	Early-On Grade Level	Mid-Above Grade Level	20%
Choice GPA	Below 75	75 -79	80 - 85	86 - 93	94 - 100	30%
Attendance	More than 12 Unexcused Absences	10 - 11 Unexcused Absences	6 - 9 Unexcused Absences	3 - 5 Unexcused Absences	0 - 2 Unexcused Absences	15%
Discipline	Any Discipline Referral Resulting in Expulsion or Alternative Placement	More than 5 Discipline Referrals with State- Reported Consequences	3 - 5 Discipline Referrals with State- Reported Consequences	1 - 2 Discipline Referrals with State- Reported Consequences	No Discipline Referrals with State- Reported Consequences	15%

AUDITION PROCESS FOR VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOLS

The selection process for the performing arts schools (Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts, grades 6-8 and Savannah Arts Academy) differs from the process utilized by other Choice Programs in the district. As a result, every student interested in attending Savannah Arts Academy and Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts (grades 6th – 8th), must complete the application process in four phases. This ensures that applicants demonstrate ability as well as interest in their selected visual and/or performing arts area.

Phase 1: Application Process

Students interested in Savannah Arts Academy and Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts should first apply online. Students must meet the minimum Choice Program academic requirements to be considered for an audition at Savannah Arts Academy and Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts (Grades 6-8).

Phase 2: Audition Process

Students who meet the academic requirements for a performing arts school will be scheduled for an audition in the arts area they select. Auditions are scheduled by Savannah Arts Academy and Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts (grades 6-8) staff members after the initial online application process is completed.

Students interested in Savannah Arts Academy and Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts should visit those school websites for information about the audition requirements for their chosen arts area. Please visit www.sccpss.com, and click the Schools Tab.

Accommodations for Auditions

A parent/guardian must notify the SCCPSS Office of College and Career Readiness immediately following the submission of the application if the child has a special need that requires accommodations for his/her audition. Accommodations to the audition process are permissible for students with special needs documented in an active IEP or 504 Plan. A copy of the child's current IEP or 504 Plan (public school students) or medical evaluation (private school students) must be provided to the Office of College & Career Readiness, 402 Market Street, Savannah, 31408, within five business days of submitting the application in order to ensure audition accommodations.

Students who have limited proficiency in the English language are encouraged to audition in their native language, if needed. Students identified as ELL can be provided language facilitators for their auditions. Please contact Jessica Horton (jessica.horton@sccpss.com) or Dr. Angie Lewis (angie.lewis@sccpss.com) at 912-395-6765 if audition accommodations are needed.

Phase 3: Judging

Students will be scored using a rubric on the day of the audition by a panel of judges.

Phase 4: Ranking

- Students who audition will be ranked using a score of 1-100. The audition score will be added to each student's application. Students applying to Savannah Arts Academy and Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts (grades 6th – 8th) are seated or waitlisted according to their audition ranking, based on the number of seats available in each performing arts area.
- This process eliminates sibling preference
- An email will be sent to parents, regarding the ranking, on March 14, 2024, in conjunction with the lottery results for all Choice Programs.
- Parents who receive acceptance letters must register their children by the registration deadline. Any student who is not registered by the established deadline will forfeit their Choice seats and the seats will be offered to the next child on the waitlist.

STEP TWO: SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

Applications will be accessible on our website at choice.sccpss.com starting **January 27, 2024**.

Completing the online application is the only step necessary for current SCCPSS students.

All applicants who are not currently enrolled in a SCCPSS school should apply online AND must upload digital copies of the required documentation during the submission process. The required documentation must be uploaded with the online application and includes:

- Report Cards (previous three full semesters, equivalent to a full year and a half)
- Proof of Address (Utility Bill (electric, gas, water), Government Agency Mail, or Lease Agreement/Mortgage Statement)
- Required Test Scores: A nationally normed standardized test score in Reading, and a nationally normed standardized test score in Mathematics
- An attendance report covering the time period from January 2023 – December 2023
- A discipline report covering the time period from January 2023 – December 2023

CHOICE PROGRAM SELECTIONS

The online application allows parents to select a first, second, and third choice when applying to a Choice Program. **The selection of more than one Choice Program automatically indicates that the parent is willing to accept a seat in any of the Choice Programs choices selected.** Please note, once a student is selected through the lottery for one of the selected choice programs, he/she will not be on any other waitlist. Waitlist status is only provided if no seats are available among the choices selected. If a parent is only interested in one Choice Program, it is important to **ONLY** list that choice.

***If a student is seated at any school, he/she will not be placed on any waitlists. ***

Choice School Scenarios

- If you list one choice on your application and meet the requirements, you will be entered in the lottery for only that school or program. If no seats are available, you will be placed on the waitlist.
- If you list two or more choices on your application and meet the requirements, you will be entered in the lottery and will be seated where space is available. Waitlist status is only provided if no seats are available for any of the choices.
- If your child is on a waitlist and an open seat becomes available, you will have three days to register. Failure to do so will forfeit your available seat.
- If you accept a seat and register, your child will be enrolled for the upcoming school year.

The following information applies to all Choice Program applicants:

- Once registration is complete, students will be enrolled for the following school year.
- Once a parent has submitted an application, additional information may be requested by the Choice site. If a school requests additional information, parents should reply promptly by sending the information directly to the school. Applications will be considered incomplete if requested information is not provided.
- Submitting an application does not guarantee placement in a school or Choice Program.
- Waiting lists are not kept from year to year. The process begins new at the beginning of each application window.
- Submitting more than one application will void the previous application. The most recent application will be reviewed.
- Submitting false information will void an application.
- **If a student is offered a seat at any of their choice schools, they are not placed on the waiting list at any other schools.**

NON-SCCPSS STUDENTS

All applicants who are not currently enrolled in a SCCPSS school (or who have not been enrolled in SCCPSS continuously for the previous 3 semesters)and should apply online and MUST upload digital copies of the required documentation during the submission process. The required documentation must be uploaded with the online application and includes:

- Report Cards (previous three full semesters, equivalent to a full year and a half)
- Proof of Address (Utility Bill (electric, gas, water), Government Agency Mail, or Lease Agreement/Mortgage Statement)
- Required Test Scores: A nationally normed standardized test score in Reading, and a nationally normed standardized test score in Mathematics
- An attendance report covering the time period from January 2023 – December 2023
- A discipline report covering the time period from January 2023 – December 2023

STEP THREE: LOTTERY PROCESS

Once the application window closes and the eligibility verification process is complete, an electronic random lottery will be conducted for all schools with the exception of Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts (grades 6th – 8th) and Savannah Arts Academy. Results from the lottery will be sent through email with instructions on the registration process and deadline.

THE LOTTERY

- In early March, the lottery will be conducted. Names will be selected to fill seats at each school. Electronic selection will be based on the First Choice, Second Choice, and Third Choice of schools identified in the Choice Program application.
- Once a seat is earned through the lottery, the student’s name will be removed from other school waitlists.
- The number of students accepted is based upon the number of seats available at each school. Additional names will be put on the waitlist. As seats become available at the school, they will be offered to the applicants in the order of placement on the waitlist. **Once a seat becomes available for a student at ANY of their selected Choice Schools, the student is automatically removed from all other waitlists.**
- If the number of applicants does not exceed the number of available seats, all eligible applicants will be seated.
- Parents who receive acceptance letters for their children must register the students by the registration deadline. Students who do not register by the established deadline will forfeit their Choice seat and the seat will be offered to the next child on the waitlist.

PRIORITY PREFERENCES

The lottery process is used to ensure that all families have a chance of being seated in a Choice Program. The lottery process is automated and applications are submitted electronically. Online application form and instructions will then be available on the district's website at choice.sccpss.com. Once the application is submitted, an appropriate priority category is applied to all students. Students applying to Choice Programs are eligible to receive **Priority Preferences** based on the following:

Priority 1 - SCCPSS Full-time Permanent Employee's Child with Parent working at the Choice Program School

Children of full-time employees of the SCCPSS shall be allowed to attend and to be enrolled in the school in which a parent or guardian is a full-time teacher, professional, or other employee.

Priority 2 - Chatham County Residents and SCCPSS Full-time Permanent Employee's Child

Children of full-time permanent SCCPSS employees, who live in Chatham County, and meet the enrollment criteria for their selected Choice program.

Priority 3 - Pre-K Child (Currently Enrolled at Selected Choice Program School)

Child who is enrolled in Pre-K at the selected Choice Program School for the current school year.

Priority 4 - Siblings

The applicant **must have a sibling who lives in the same household who will be continuing in the selected Choice Program** for the upcoming school year. Eligibility at this level will require the sibling to be actively enrolled in the program for the applied school year. For example, if the Choice is an elementary school and the sibling was in 5th grade for the current school year, the applicant is NOT eligible for this priority. **This priority will not apply to schools where admission is determined by ranking (Savannah Arts Academy and Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts, Grades 6-8).**

Priority 5 - Chatham County Residents

All students who live in Chatham County receive this priority level. The majority of applicants receive this priority level.

Priority 6 - SCCPSS Employee's Child (Non-Chatham County Residents)

Children of full-time permanent SCCPSS employees, who do not live in Chatham County, but meet the enrollment criteria for the selected Choice Program. These students will be wait-listed after all qualified resident students have been admitted. (See Board Policy Regulation JBCBA-R at www.sccpss.com, Click Board Tab and seek Board Policy Manual)

Priority 7 - Out of County Residents

If the student does not live in Chatham County, he/she will be coded with this priority. The student will also be charged tuition. (See Board Policy: JBCBA and JBCBA-R. Review board policies at www.sccpss.com, Click Board Tab and seek Board Policy Manual)

STEP 4: THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

Upon notification that a child has been chosen for an available seat in a Choice Program, parents will complete the registration process. This process happens in March, after the lottery.

- Once a student is selected for a choice program through the lottery, a registration email will be sent to the email address provided on the choice applications.
- Parents who receive registration emails for their children must register the students by the registration deadline provided in the email. Students who do not register by the established deadline will forfeit their Choice seat and the seat will be offered to the next child on the waitlist.

STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN SCCPSS

Parents with students who are currently enrolled in SCCPSS who receive notification of placement in a Choice school are also required to register.

Failure to register for a seat offered during the choice program process by the registration deadline will result in the seat being offered to a student on the waiting list. The following information will assist parents with understanding the registration process.

- Current SCCPSS students will complete the registration process through the link provided through email. Completion of the online registration is the only step that current SCCPSS students need to take to secure their seat. Current SCCPSS students DO NOT have to provide additional documentation unless contacted by the school.
- A student who is not registered by the deadline will have his/her seat given to another student on the "waitlist".
- Parents who do not have access to the internet may complete this process by using a computer in the public library or by contacting the SCCPSS Office of College & Career Readiness at 912-395-6765 to set up an appointment to use a computer.

STUDENTS NOT ENROLLED IN SCCPSS

Students who are **NOT** currently enrolled in a Savannah-Chatham County Public School **MUST** register online.

The following documents will be required during the registration process: Birth Certificate (Certified Copy), Social Security Card, Georgia Immunization Record Form 3231, Georgia Certificate of EED (Ear, Eye, Dental) Form 3300, Proof of Address: Utility Bill (electric, gas, or water) Government Agency Mail, or Lease Agreement, Mortgage Statement, or Home Purchase Agreement, Copy of registering parent's picture ID.

Parents will receive more information about the registration process once a student has earned a seat through the lottery.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

APPEAL PROCESS

Parents who believe their child was not allowed an equitable opportunity to be selected for a Choice Program during the audition or eligibility process as a result of a technical problem or inequity may request an appeal between March 1, 2024 and March 7, 2024.

An application for an appeal of Choice Program eligibility must be submitted to the Office of College and Career Readiness, via email to jessica.horton@sccpss.com and angie.lewis@sccpss.com, indicating the child's program assignment, waitlist status, or program ineligibility. To download the SCCPSS Choice School Appeal Application, go to choice.sccpss.com. Appeal applications are available, accepted, and reviewed **March 1 – March 7, 2024**. Notification of appeal results will be provided by email no later than **March 8, 2024**.

APPLICANTS NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN SAVANNAH-CHATHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

All applicants who are not currently enrolled in a SCCPSS school (who have not been enrolled in SCCPSS continuously for the previous 3 semesters) should apply online and **MUST** upload digital copies of the required documentation during the submission process. The required documentation must be uploaded with the online application and includes:

- Report Cards (previous three full semesters, equivalent to a full year and a half)
- Proof of Address (Utility Bill (electric, gas, water), Government Agency Mail, or Lease Agreement/Mortgage Statement)
- Required Test Scores: A nationally normed standardized test score in Reading, and a nationally normed standardized test score in Mathematics
- An attendance report covering the time period from January 2023 – December 2023
- A discipline report covering the time period from January 2023 – December 2023

AFTER LOTTERY APPLICATION PROCESS

Families interested in a Choice Program that wish to apply **after the lottery** process is complete, can access an "After Lottery Application" **online at** choice.sccpss.com. Late applications will place students on the schools' waitlist in the order received upon eligibility criteria verification. Out of County applicants and those students **NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED (this includes out of county, home school, virtual school, and private school students)** in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System must upload ALL required documents to the online application upon submission. If space in the school or program becomes available, parents will receive notification. Otherwise, the student is expected to enroll at their neighborhood school in the attendance zone they reside. After Lottery Applications will be available beginning **April 8, 2024**. The deadline for reviewing After Lottery Applications will be **June 15, 2024**. At that time, only programs with available seats will review applications.

TRANSPORTATION

SCCPSS is not able to provide transportation to Choice Program students at this time.

CHOICE PROGRAMS/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Choice school students will only be eligible to participate in athletic opportunities offered at their choice school. Any requests for an exception to this standard limitation will only be formally reviewed under exceptional and extraordinary circumstances and only if all applicable GHSA requirements are satisfied.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN VS. KINDERGARTEN

All families interested in Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K), must complete the Pre-K application process. Information about the Pre-K application can be found at pk.sccpss.com. The Pre-K program provides services to age eligible four year olds (**MUST be 4 years old on or before September 1 of the school year**) and reside in Chatham County. Please understand that even though some of our Choice Program schools have Pre-K classes, applicants CAN NOT apply through the Choice Program process for PreK.

Students applying for Kindergarten must be five years old, on or before September 1 of the school year in which they are applying. All families interested in Choice Program Kindergarten, must apply at choice.sccpss.com.

GUIDELINES FOR TWINS OR TRIPLETS

Multiple births refer to children that were born at the same time, *twins, triplets, and other multiples*. Families with twins, triplets, etc. have the options of applying multiple children on **one** application. The use of the same application for multiple birth children will allow children to be treated identically when determining eligibility. This means, if one child is **not** eligible, the other(s) will not be eligible. If all children are eligible they will be entered into the lottery together.

- Parents should include all names online (and on the same paper application) only if they want all children to attend the same program AND only if they are certain that ALL children meet the entrance criteria.
- Multiple births that use the same application form will be treated identically when determining eligibility.
- Multiple birth children who apply on the same application will be reviewed together and will be seated or waitlisted sequentially. However, in the case where parents select more than one Choice Program and the first student gets the final seat at a school, the second or third sibling could end up on multiple waitlists, or seated at a different school than the first sibling.
- Twins, triplets, etc. can apply on separate applications, but there is no guarantee that all siblings will be placed in the same school or program.
- All multiple birth children applying for Grades 6-8 at Garrison School for the Arts and Savannah Arts Academy MUST apply on separate applications because auditions are required for all students and placement is based on ranking.

If you have twins, triplets, etc. and would like further clarification, please contact the Office of College and Career Readiness at 912-395-6765 or email jessica.horton@sccpss.com.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities are encouraged to apply for entrance into a Choice Program. Applications **for appeal** will be reviewed in collaboration with personnel from the Department of Specialized Instruction to determine if the disability is impacting student's ability to qualify for the lottery.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR AUDITIONS

A parent/guardian must notify the SCCPSS Office of College and Career Readiness immediately following the submission of the application if the child has a special need that requires accommodations for his/her audition. Accommodations to the audition process are permissible for students with special needs documented in an active IEP or 504 Plan. A copy of the child's current IEP or 504 Plan (public school students) or medical evaluation (private school students) must be provided to the Office of College & Career Readiness, 402 Market Street, Savannah, 31408, within five business days of submitting the application in order to ensure audition accommodations.

Students who have limited proficiency in the English language are encouraged to audition in their native language, if needed. Students identified as ELL can be provided language facilitators for their auditions. Please contact Jessica Horton (jessica.horton@sccpss.com) and Dr. Angie Lewis (angie.lewis@sccpss.com) at 912-395-6765 if audition accommodations are needed.

HOME SCHOOL EDUCATION AND/OR VIRTUAL SCHOOL STUDENTS

Parents must submit transcripts/portfolio to determine eligibility. Georgia's Home Study law (GA Code Ann. 20-2-690-(c)(7)), requires that all home schooled children take a national standardized achievement test every three years, beginning at the end of the third grade. The home schooling parent may use any nationally normed standardized test. The testing companies set the rules as to the qualifications of the person administering the test and under what circumstances the test should be given. The home schooling parent is responsible for the cost of the test and having their children tested. The state does not provide this service. The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System will allow parents to use the latest available test scores as a part of the application criteria for a Choice Program.

RECIPROCITY

Students who move into the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System after the initial lottery may be considered for assignment to a program for the following school year **if they are eligible**, have evidence of transferring from a like-themed program (i.e. IB, Arts, STEM, etc.) that they have attended at least one full year, and there are available seats in the requested program/school for the student. If the student is requesting a Performing Arts program at one of the two schools with auditions required for eligibility, placement will only be considered if seats are available in the requested program of study, an audition is completed, and a passing audition score is attained. However, there is no guarantee of time, place, or availability of auditions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How do I apply for a Choice Program? The application process is online. The application window will be **January 27 – February 9, 2024**. During this time, the online application will be available on the district website, choice.sccpss.com.
2. What if I don't have a computer or Internet access? The Office of College & Career Readiness can provide assistance with accessing the online application, if needed, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Please call 912-395-6765 to set up an appointment. Public computers are also available at any of the Chatham County Public Libraries.
3. If I am enrolled in a choice program and plan to return to the same program at the same school do I need to reapply each year? No, enrollment remains through the highest grade offered for that program at the same school. **Exception: All 5th grade students at Garrison School for the Arts must apply, meet criteria and audition to be considered for 6th grade.*
4. If I already attend a school that has a Choice Program but I am not enrolled in the Choice Program, do I have to apply for the Choice Program they offer? Yes, and the child must meet the established criteria for that choice program.
5. What programs require an audition or artistic review? Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts, grades 6-8, and Savannah Arts Academy will require an audition and/or artistic review process.
6. What happens if there are more applicants than space available for a non-audition program? Those students who meet the Choice Program criteria but are not selected through the Choice Program lottery will be placed on the waitlist.
7. How long after the lottery will parents be notified of their child's status? What happens after the lottery? Parents will be notified through email of Choice Program lottery results on **March 14, 2024, after 4:00pm**.
8. Is there an appeal process? Yes. Parents who believe their child was not allowed an equitable opportunity to a Choice Program during the audition or eligibility process as a result of a technical problem or inequity may request an appeal **between March 1, 2024 and March 7, 2024**. An application for an appeal of Choice Program eligibility must be submitted via email to jessica.horton@sccpss.com and angie.lewis@sccpss.com, indicating the child's program assignment, waitlist status, or program ineligibility. To download the SCCPSS Choice Program Appeal Application, go to choice.sccpss.com.

Appeal forms will be available, accepted, and reviewed from March 1, 2024 – March 7, 2024.
9. Is transportation provided for Choice programs? SCCPSS is not able to provide transportation to Choice Program students at this time.
10. How can I find more information about these programs? All of the Choice program details can be found on the district web site at choice.sccpss.com.

CHOICE PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

The following pages give a brief overview of the programs offered in each Choice school in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System. Contact information for each site is also included.

ELEMENTARY AND K-8 CHOICE PROGRAMS



Andrea B. Williams - Andrea B. Williams Elementary fosters critical thinkers and problem solvers by maximizing their potential through the implementation of STEAM principles. Our Engineering and Math Labs, as well as Reading support through STEAM, enable students to engage in innovative hands-on learning experiences. Andrea B. Williams Elementary is a Leader In Me School where students learn leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century and positively impact their community. ***Choice Program eligibility criteria is not required for A. B. Williams Elementary School. Students who apply for this program will be placed in the lottery.**



Heard Elementary – A Georgia Certified STEAM Elementary School. Students are provided with an enriched and rigorous accelerated curriculum that meets the needs of advanced learners. Students are engaged in lessons where they investigate and incorporate concepts from STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) to become innovative, lifelong learners. Student-centered inquiry lessons allow students to work collaboratively using higher-level thinking skills, problem-solving strategies and technology. A state of the art STEAM Lab, Technology Lab, and MakerSpace provide hands-on experimentation and investigation, and enhance classroom science and engineering instruction. Visual and performing arts also play an important part of this program, as they are intertwined with weekly Fine Arts classes and daily classroom instruction available at Heard.



The **Medical and Allied Health Program at Hodge Elementary School** is designed to actively engage students through our medical and health science theme, which supports a hands-on, inquiry based model of instruction. This choice program works to create well-rounded individuals who are knowledgeable about the human body, total body wellness, and the impact of the medical field in the lives of citizens all over the world. Students who are inducted into this program prepare for future careers in the medical field and are equipped for the 21st century.



Jacob G. Smith Elementary provides a loving and welcoming educational environment. We strive to offer a teacher-directed, traditional, back-to-basics approach to teaching and learning. Our curriculum is designed to implement the Georgia Standards of Excellence and promote equity in education by building a base of knowledge for all students in the early years of school. Additionally, our curriculum focuses on intense instruction in Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Science, and critical thinking skills with technology integrated throughout the curriculum.



Marshpoint Elementary integrates **STEM/STEAM programs** to offer a challenging framework that encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world. The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields are made complete by the integration of the Arts component to provide a creative and innovative way to communicate, problem solve and to apply what has been learned. ALL students will benefit from the STEM/STEAM program because it teaches independent innovation and allows students to explore greater depths of all of the subjects by utilizing the skills learned; those skills that are going to be required in order for today's students to be tomorrow's global leaders.



Charles Ellis Montessori is a K-8 school that embraces the Montessori approach developed by Dr. Maria Montessori in Italy at the turn of the 20th century. The method is based on children's natural development and encourages the growth of the whole individual – intellectually, socially, spiritually, and physically. This program encourages critical thinking, exploration and self-directed learning. The curriculum helps the students understand both concrete facts and abstract ideas in multiple subject areas. Students enrolled in this program are also exposed to individualized

work plans. Charles Ellis Montessori Academy is an affiliated school with the American Montessori Society, www.amshq.org. *Note: Prior Montessori experience is preferred for students entering 4th – 8th Grade. Documentation of prior Montessori Experience will be reviewed prior to admission.



Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts is a K-8 school that offers visual and performing arts. This program provides experiences to motivate students to excel in the academics as well as the arts. It is the goal of the Visual and Performing Arts Program to assist students in developing to their fullest potential. Students interested in applying for grades 6th - 8th are required to **audition**.

Important Note: All students who audition for grades 6-8 at Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts will be ranked using a score of 1-100. The audition score will be added to each student's lottery application. Students applying will be seated according to their audition ranking, based on the number of seats available in each performing arts area. As a result, sibling preference DOES NOT apply to middle school students submitting applications for grades 6-8 at Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts.

CHOICE PROGRAMS-MIDDLE LEVEL



The **STEM Academy @ Bartlett** is the 2016 and 2019 winner of Best STEM Middle School in the United States. The school provides problem-based learning opportunities for students through the Grand Challenges of Engineering. Our students are encouraged to be problem solvers, risk takers, critical thinkers, and innovators by taking positions on real world problems, designing solutions, and presenting their findings to peers and community members. Students are immersed in the use of technology to enhance their learning experience and collaborate with peers and teachers. By working through a combination of learning strategies they discover the nature of a problem, understand the variables involved and gain a perspective viewpoint of those affected. Courses that provide additional support for problem-solving are Robotics (LEGO, VEX, Underwater), Latin, Computer Science/Video Game Design, Visual Arts (Applied Design and Architecture), MakerSpace, Fitness & Wellness, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Journalism and Music. Students also participate in a number of unique field experiences every year and many industry partners/experts work side-by-side with the students and staff as partners. The program delivers a school-wide accelerated curriculum in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math infused with a meaningful Arts integration, wherein all students are required to complete the majority of their 9th grade coursework in 8th grade.



Coastal Middle School has been awarded a National Lighthouse School 9 years in a row. Our SALT specialty program combines Pre-Advanced Placement curriculum and STEAM learning to ensure students gain knowledge and hands-on experiences needed to pursue a career of their choice. Through our robust CTAE program, students can study Agriculture, Robotics, Innovation, Family Consumer Science, Music, Band, and Chorus, as well as enroll in advanced Art and Theater. Across the school students will practice teamwork, leadership, and effective communication. We strive to provide students with a safe, fun and rigorous middle school experience that will leave a lasting positive memory and enable them to be successful in any endeavor they choose to pursue.



DeRenne Medical and Allied Health offers an exciting program where students learn about and prepare for Medical and Allied Health Science careers. A hands-on curriculum allows students to be involved in their own learning every step of the way. The program introduces students to the exciting and growing field of healthcare professions. Students will be enrolled in a healthcare science class each year where they will learn about careers, safety procedures and communication skills relevant to various healthcare professions. Students also enjoy guest speakers and field trips as part of the program, providing students with the ability to interact first-hand with local professionals.



The Innovative Learning Academy at Hubert provides a rigorous and hands-on STEAM education through the use of Project Based Learning. The pathways include Engineering, Computer Science, Audio/Visual, and Culinary Arts. Engineering offers the students opportunities to learn how to design, build, and operate various robotics, electrical, and energy systems. The Computer Science programs prepare students to become productive members of the business community. Students develop competencies in such areas as finance, legal operations of business, entrepreneurship, administrative support, information management, and international business. The

culinary pathway offers real world training needed for a foundation in the hospitality industry. Students in the culinary arts program experience the success of preparing various dishes from each of the four basic food groups as they learn the initial elements required to succeed in culinary arts. ***Choice Program eligibility criteria is not required for Hubert Middle School. Students who apply for this program will be placed in the lottery.**



Cinematic Studies @ Southwest Middle School: We are excited to open a communications focused Choice Program for students in grades 6-8 at Southwest Middle School. This program will explore the history of mass media, terminology, safety, basic equipment, script writing, storyboarding, and production teams.

A close look at planning, writing, directing, recording and editing a production, graphic communications, and professional ethics will encompass the real-world, hands-on projects completed in the course work. In addition, students will acquire a fundamental understanding of the media and film industry in the Savannah area, region, state, and beyond. This program will also serve as a pipeline to other Choice Programs at the high school level.

CHOICE PROGRAMS: HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL



Beach High School Medial and Allied Health Professions Program offers an exciting curriculum where students learn about and prepare for Medical Health Professions. Students will have the opportunity to learn medical terminology, the essentials of healthcare, patient care fundamentals, responses to emergencies, and much more! With a research-based and hands-on curriculum, students are engaged every step of the way. Students will be exposed to guest speakers, field trips, and community service as part of the program, providing students the ability to interact first-hand with local professionals. Qualified students who show mastery of their

skills will have the opportunity to work in an onsite public medical clinic sponsored by St. Joseph's/Candler Hospital. In this diagnostic clinic, students will work closely with an onsite nurse practitioner to serve the community. Students will schedule appointments and receive patients; conduct patient interviews; obtain biometrics, vital signs and lab work; then educate patients on their risk factors and lab results. Students completing the clinical rotation and all other necessary criteria can become a Certified Patient Care Technician (PCT), a Phlebotomist, or an Emergency Medical Responder, any of which may lead to jobs after graduation.



Savannah Early College High School offers students an opportunity to earn a high school diploma with the potential to earn an Associate's Degree or up to two years of transferable college credit towards a Bachelor's Degree. This is accomplished by exposing students to a challenging high school curriculum along with college courses through Savannah State University. The small learning environment of Early College is most beneficial for students who may not be well-served by traditional high schools. The initiative also seeks to change the face of higher education by targeting those students traditionally underrepresented on college campuses. Students enrolling in Early College can also enroll in the Cloud Computing pathway. This pathway consists

of three courses: Introduction to Software Technology, Computer Science Principles, and Cloud Computing. These high school courses were developed with feedback from Amazon Web Services, Google Cloud, NCR, Accenture, Microsoft, and other technology companies. Students will gain an overall understanding of cloud computing, inclusive of specific technical roles, cloud concepts, core services, security, architecture and support. Students in this program will dive deeply into cloud computing best practices and learn how cloud computing helps users develop a global infrastructure while also developing and inventing innovative technologies.



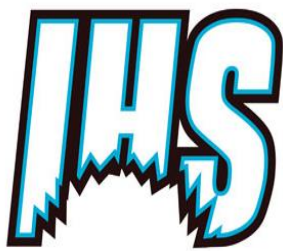
Groves High School Maritime Logistics Program is designed to provide students with access to the distribution, logistics and transportation industry. In order to complete the level of training required for this pathway, students will receive specialized training necessary to connect the classroom and the distribution and logistics industry. Students will receive real-world instruction and application of supply chain management, the global logistics environment, the importance of

logistical planning strategies, specialized material handling and quality control. Mastery of standards through project-based learning, interviews with industry professionals, technical skills practice, leadership development activities and involvement in distribution and logistics related associations provide students with a competitive edge for entry into government/military services, the global market and/or post-secondary education. The Capstone of the program is the opportunity for all students to become Certified Logistic Technicians through a national industry-led assessment and certification system.



Groves High School: The Aviation Manufacturing and Service Program is a new high school Choice Program that will be based at Groves High School. Students will gain a fundamental knowledge base in aviation history and regulations, the basic principles of flight, aerospace careers, and factors influencing work systems, aerospace technologies, and basic aviation meteorology. Students will learn the basics of aircraft maintenance, performance, and design. The program

is a partnership between Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools, Savannah Technical College, and Gulfstream Aerospace that provides students an opportunity to earn training and certifications from Savannah Technical College in multiple programs that directly lead to employment in advanced manufacturing careers. While in high school students will have the opportunity to job shadow and complete apprenticeships at Gulfstream.



Islands High School Biological & Environmental Scientific Research Program is designed to introduce students to the real-world application of scientific inquiry through traditional as well as project-based learning. Students are also expected to be enrolled in Honors and/or AP level science courses in conjunction with the scientific research courses. Scientific Research is designed to introduce students to the real-world application of scientific inquiry through traditional as well as project-based learning. Students engage in developing a research idea, designing and conducting a study, and analyzing and reporting data.

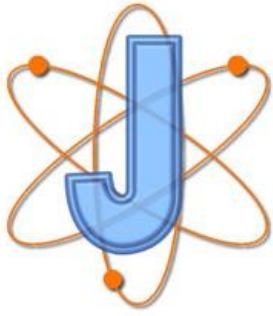


Islands High School Veterinary Science Program: The Veterinary Science Program includes coursework in Basic Agriculture, Small Animal Care, and Veterinary Science. Students will learn the basics of animal care and about the many career opportunities available in this field. Students will be engaged in a variety of classroom and hands on experiences to include internships during their senior year.



Jenkins High School, School of Engineering Program provides a stimulating curriculum enriched in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The goal of the program is to produce graduates who are successful in their pursuit of higher education within these fields. Students are

exposed to a rigorous curriculum and accelerated coursework in all subject areas. Parents and students can expect specially trained teachers, smaller class sizes, pairing with students with similar life goals, and the possibility of college credit without the college costs.



Johnson High School It is important now, more than ever, that young people develop the skills required to thrive in a constantly changing global society. A global education is one that focuses on developing life-long learners who inquire about the world, recognize varied perspectives, develop, and communicate solutions, and take action to bring positive change to their communities. The International Baccalaureate is a rigorous academic program that prepares students to meet these demands. Johnson High School has been an International Baccalaureate (IB) accredited school since 2000, and we are currently the only public IB option in the county. Students who thrive in a demanding academic environment will be challenged to maximize their full potential with the IB program. The intellectual freedom they experience provides them the time and space to investigate topics that matter to them locally, nationally, and globally. This project-based environment encourages them to think critically and take initiative in accomplishing tasks. This program encourages students to think independently and drive their own learning, which prepares them well for post-secondary opportunities.



Aviation Drone Program: Windsor Forest High School is excited to launch a drone pilot preparatory program! Courses provide a foundation that will allow students to earn a commercial license to pilot unmanned aircraft systems. Students will collaborate with SCCPSS's Division of Operations and local contractors to apply their content knowledge in real work settings as they work on renovations and new construction projects within the Savannah-Chatham County School System.



Construction/Electrical Program: New for 2024 – 2025, Windsor Forest High School is offering an electrical/construction program! Courses provide a foundation that will allow students to gain skills to pursue a career in residential and commercial construction. Students will collaborate with local business and industry partners in the construction and electrical industries.



Woodville Tompkins Technical & Career High School gives students the opportunity to excel academically while gaining invaluable hands-on experience in real work, real world environments. Students benefit from an intensive level of guidance and instruction designed to equip students with the skills needed to succeed in both secondary education and highly competitive job markets. This advanced technical training provides students with the skills needed to compete in a global economy and become leaders in their field.

Students who do not meet the criteria or are waitlisted to attend Woodville Tompkins through the Choice Program process still have an opportunity to be a SHARED PROGRAM student (attending Woodville Tompkins part time for the career technical classes). For more information, see your school counselor.



STEAM Career Academy at the School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High:

Savannah High School offers a vast array of career and STEM related pathways: Business Communication, Sports and Entertainment Marketing , Computer Science, Barbering, Cosmetology, Nails, Culinary Arts, Engineering, Drafting and Design, Cyber Security, JROTC, and Welding. Students at Savannah High will receive a strong foundation in Entrepreneurship while having the opportunity to participate in Junior Achievement’s 3 Dimension Education model. 3DE provides students with rigorous interdisciplinary courses through authentic business experiences to accelerate students’ knowledge, increase critical thinking skills

through real world case studies, and develop portfolios to differentiate themselves in a highly competitive post-secondary and career environments. ***Choice Program eligibility criteria is not required for Savannah High School. Students who apply for this program will be placed in the lottery.**



Savannah Arts Academy of Visual and Performing Arts requires all applicants to **audition**. This visual and performing arts school provides students with experiences that allow them to excel in the academics as well as the arts. The goal of the visual and performing arts program is to assist students in developing to their fullest potential. **All students who meet the academic program requirements are also required to audition.**

Important Note:

All students who audition will be ranked using a score of 1-100. The audition score will be added to each student’s application. Students applying will be seated according to their audition ranking, based on the number of seats available in each performing arts area. As a result, sibling preference DOES NOT apply to applications submitted to Savannah Arts Academy.

CHOICE PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Elementary and K-8 Schools	Program	Number
Andrea B. Williams	The STEAM Magnet Program	(912) 395-2500
Heard Elementary	Center for Advanced Learning & STEAM	(912) 395-6630
Hodge Elementary	Medical and Allied Health	(912) 395-5200
J.G. Smith Elementary	Traditional	(912) 395-6530
Marshpoint Elementary	Environmental Sciences	(912) 395-4000
Charles Ellis Montessori K-8 School	Montessori	(912) 395-5470
Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts	Visual and Performing Arts	(912) 395-5975
Middle Schools	Program	Number
The STEM Academy at Bartlett	Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math	(912) 395-3500
Coastal Middle School	S.A.L.T Program	(912) 395-3950
DeRenne Middle School	Medical and Allied Health	(912) 395-5900
Hubert Middle School	Innovative Learning Academy	(912) 395-5235
Southwest Middle School	Cinematic Studies	(912) 395-3540
High Schools	Program	Number
Beach High School	Medical & Allied Health	(912) 395-5330
Groves High School	Maritime Logistics & Aviation Manufacturing & Service	(912) 395-2520
Islands High School	Environmental Scientific Research & Veterinary Science	(912) 395-2000
Jenkins High School	School of Engineering	(912) 395-6300
Johnson High School	International Baccalaureate	(912) 395-6400
Savannah Arts Academy	Visual and Performing Arts	(912) 395-5000
Savannah Early College High School	Early College	(912) 395-2535
Savannah Early College High School	Cloud Computing	(912) 395-2535
School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High School	STEAM Career Academy	(912) 395-5050
Windsor Forest High School	Aviation Drone Program @ WHFS	(912) 395-3400
Woodville Tompkins Technical and Career High School	Career and Technical	(912) 395-6750

SAMPLE ONLY, NOT FOR SUBMISSION

Appeal forms will be available from March 1, 2024 – March 7, 2024 at choice.sccpss.com



SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Choice Programs

APPLICATION FOR APPEAL

School Year: 24/25

Read the preceding page, Important Information about the Appeal Process carefully before completing the appeal application. Submit the completed form and email it to Jessica.horton@sccpss.com and amy.perry@sccpss.com.

Student Name	Age	Birthdate	Entering Grade:
Name of Parent or Guardian	Home Phone	Day Phone	
Address of Parent or Guardian (street, apt. #, street, state, zip code)			
Email Address of Parent or Guardian			

What is the student's currently assigned school for 2024-2025? _____

Choice Program Selections: _____

What is the reason the student is requesting an appeal? (Choose all that apply)

- Technical problem during **audition** process Technical problem during **eligibility** process
 Inequality during **audition** process Inequity during **eligibility** process

Explain the reason the student is requesting an appeal:

I have read and understand this form and agree to the following:

- My signature below verifies that all the above information on this application is correct.
- The form and the important information included with this form have been either read to me or by me and both are understood.
- I understand appeals are only heard for the reasons stated above.
- The results of the appeal will be emailed to the above address.
- This form is not valid unless signed by the parent or guardian.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

DO NOT WRITE BELOW - SCCPSS PERSONNEL ONLY	
___APPROVED ___NOT APPROVED ___VOID	
Signature of Director or Designee:	Date:

**Savannah-Chatham County Public School System
Office of College & Career Readiness**

Choice Program Information

(912) 395-6765

Our Mission

To ignite a passion for learning and teaching at high levels.

Our Vision

From school to the world: All students prepared for productive futures.

S. Denise Watts, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

SCCPSS Board Members

Mr. Roger Moss, Jr. – Board President

Denise R. Grabowski – District 1

Dr. Dionne Hoskins-Brown – District 2

Cornelia H. Hall – District 3

Shawn A. Kachmar – District 4

Paul E. Smith – District 5

Dr. David A. Bringman – District 6

Michael Johnson – District 7

Dr. Tonia Howard-Hall – District 8



208 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401

Phone: (912) 395-5600

As required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, **Savannah-Chatham County Public School System** does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission to its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of their operations. For additional information or referral to the appropriate system coordinator, contact the system superintendent's office at 208 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.