

# 2016 - 2017 SCHOOL CHOICE **QUICK GUIDE**



## SCHOOL APPLICATIONS DUE BY **DECEMBER 4, 2015**

Families in Nashville-Davidson County have more than 160 public schools available to them in their neighborhoods and nearby communities. No matter what your child needs, there is a school for you. Metro Schools will help you select the right school for your child and your family so he or she has a great educational experience and graduates prepared for college, career and life.

Metro schools offer a variety of unique academic programs, supports, extra-curricular activities and locations. Every year, the Optional Schools Application gives you the ability to choose from dozens of open enrollment schools to find the best fit for your child. In addition, families always have the option of attending their zoned school. We hope this Quick Guide helps you navigate your options and find the right choice for you.



# 3 STEPS TO FINDING THE RIGHT SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD

## 1. Explore Your Options at the First Choice Festival on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2015

First Choice brings together all Metro schools into one room on one day. Families can learn about their school choices, schedule school tours, ask questions and meet principals. This event takes place in the fall before the Optional Schools Application opens.

## 2. Visit Schools During "Walk-Through Tuesdays" in October, November and December 2015

Once you have a list of the schools that fit your needs, pay them a visit. Taking a school tour is a great way to see if a school is a good fit for your family. Tours provide families an opportunity to meet teachers and principals, observe classrooms, ask questions and learn about the academic programming. All schools offer tours on five specific dates designated as "Walk-Through Tuesdays": Oct. 13 and 20, Nov. 10 and 17, and Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. To schedule a tour for a different day or time, call the school directly. School phone numbers are listed on MNPS.org.

## 3. Apply by Dec. 4, 2015

The Optional Schools Application will be available online and in paper form on Monday Nov. 2. An Optional Schools Application booklet will also be sent home with every current student on that date. Applications received before the Dec. 4, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. deadline will be included in a random selection process that determines who gets admitted to each school and who is on the waitlist. Applications received after the deadline will be added to the ends of waitlists.

*If you have further questions about school choice in Metro Schools, visit [MNPS.org](http://MNPS.org) or call the Customer Service Center at (615) 259-INFO (4636).*



Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, creed, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, color, age, and/or disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. MNPS does

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is a zoned school?

Every child in Nashville-Davidson County is zoned for a specific elementary, middle and high school. Families living within a school zone are guaranteed a seat at their zoned school. Some areas also have zoned options, which give families guaranteed access to more than one school. Proof of residency is required to attend a zoned school.

### What is an optional school?

Optional schools fall into two categories: schools without a zone designed to attract students from all over town, such as magnet and charter schools, and zoned neighborhood schools with available seats. Magnet schools often offer specialized programming or may have entrance requirements. Some charter schools also offer their own application process. If a zoned neighborhood school has available seats, any student in Nashville may apply to fill them.

### How do families apply to optional schools?

As much as possible we encourage families to apply online at <https://schooloptions.mnps.org>. They can access computers at their nearest Nashville Public Library branch, at home or at a kiosk in the MNPS Customer Service Center. To be included in the random selection process, families must apply online by 11:59 p.m. CST Friday, Dec. 4, 2015 or submit their printed application to the Customer Service Center (Berry Rd. entrance) by 5:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4.

### Is transportation provided to optional schools?

Parents are responsible for transportation to optional schools. The only exceptions are Glendale Elementary Spanish Immersion and Lockeland Elementary schools, which provide transportation to students who live in the Geographic Priority Zone (GPZ) for those schools.

All high school students can ride MTA buses at no cost to the student through the StrIDe program. Middle school students attending school outside of their zone are also eligible to ride MTA bus at no cost, but parents must request and complete a permission form available at the school's main office.

### Can I apply to charter schools using this application?

Yes – to some. Many charter schools use the Optional Schools Application to admit students. Others use their own applications. If the charter school you would like to attend does not appear on the application, contact that school to learn more about their application process.