



# PUBLIC MAGNET SCHOOLS

Across the country, school choice options are provided to students and families in a number of different ways. The laws and regulations governing school choice programs can vary dramatically from state to state. For more information, click on the QR code below, or go to [hoover.org/schoolchoicemap](https://www.hoover.org/schoolchoicemap).

## PUBLIC MAGNET SCHOOLS DEFINED

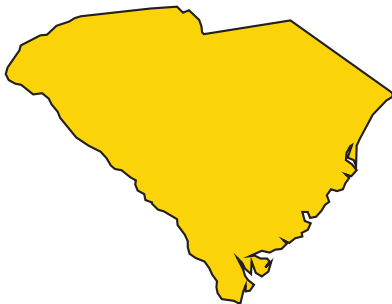
Magnet Schools are free public schools that offer specialized curricula and programs not available in traditional neighborhood public schools, and which typically require students to meet certain enrollment criteria such as qualifying scores on entrance exams. They allow students to focus on a specific learning track, such as STEAM, medical science, or the performing arts. Typically, all academic subjects are taught through the lenses of that school's specific focus. For example, at an arts-focused magnet school, students will learn math and English through arts-related projects, performances, and discussions.

## KEY VARIABLES

Magnet schools can be stand-alone schools or integrated programs within a traditional public school campus or district.

Enrollment at a magnet school typically requires completing an application process such as an audition or completing an entrance exam. Because applications to these schools often exceed available seats, some magnet schools will use a randomized lottery to determine placement of students who pass the application process.

## POLICY IN PRACTICE: STATE HIGHLIGHT



South Carolina

South Carolina has many magnet choices throughout the state, with focused curricula ranging from business and law to STEAM to the arts. Academic Magnet High School, located in North Charleston, is ranked no. 2 in the *US News & World Report's* 2022 Best US High Schools list. This high school offers almost exclusively honors or AP courses with a focus on independent research projects. Southwood Academy of the Arts uses the arts as a vehicle for achieving academic excellence; middle school students

“receive specialized training in art, drama, music composition, band, strings, chorus, and dance from highly qualified and certified professionals.” At Spring Hill High School, students focus on entrepreneurial, entertainment, environmental, engineering, or exercise science career pathways.

For more information click here:

